

## **2017-2018 Social Studies Research Paper Guide**

### **Due December 5, 2017**

#### **Paper Requirements:**

##### **Page #1: Title page (Name, Date, Teacher)**

##### **Page #2: Statement of research question/problem**

- Clearly stated
- Original or explores new aspect of a topic; appropriate to selected discipline category
- Neither too limited nor too broad
- Establishes local, state, national or international significance of the topic (Who cares?)

##### **Page #3, page #4 and page #5: Research Findings**

- Arguments for and against, are in logical order, or information is organized to build to give the whole picture (informative/explanatory)
- Information included is significant, **credible**, and relates to the topic
- Information included is fair and thorough; there is sufficient data on which to base conclusion
- Critical thinking in the interpretation, analysis, and evaluation of information/data is evident
- Analysis of primary and/or secondary sources is supported by reference to data or textual evidence in the paper (Refer to and Cite your sources in the paper)
- Writing effectively communicates the selection, integration, and synthesis of the Information (there is a logical order to the paper that pulls all sources together).
- Plagiarism or overreliance on one source or type of source is avoided (Grade of 0)

##### **Page #6: Conclusion**

- Answers the question/addresses the problem
- Follows from and supports the argument/ information provided
- Articulates implications or significance of the findings

##### **Page #7: Bibliography in standard **MLA** citation format (minimum of 5 sources)**

**Paper MUST be formatted in the following manner: NO HANDWRITTEN PAPERS will be accepted.** Papers must have 1" margins for the top, bottom, left and right, 12 pt. Times New Roman or Arial font, No use of **bold** or ALL CAPS, No extra spaces for paragraphs, each section listed above must begin on a separate page. Major points will be deducted if you do not follow these formatting rules.

#### **Tips for a good paper**

##### **Format/Conventions of language**

- Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Formal style and no bias is evident
- Paper is typed on computer and submitted on Canvas

##### **Methodology**

- Steps in project development follow the logical social studies research methods
- Social studies process skills are appropriately applied
- Multiple EXPERT sources are used (Minimum of 5). These should include PRINT (newspaper, magazines, books or journals) as well as RELIABLE internet sources, interviews and other sources that represent different points of view.