Seventh Grade Research Paper

Objective: To gain a deeper understanding of a specific component of an ancient civilization through a research project.

Focus: Ancient civilizations have had a huge influence on our own culture and government. In this project, you will research a specific area of ancient Greece or ancient Egypt and write an essay that reflects what you learned.

Requirements Overview:
Sources: You must use at least three sources in developing your paper. You must use AT LEAST one book. You must submit at least 7-10 notecards. All of your sources must be reputable.
Page length: At least 1 1/2 pages double-spaced, exclusive of the Works Cited page
Margins: One-inch margins
Font: 12-point font New Times Roman, black ink.
Format: MLA

THE STEPS

Choosing a Topic
Due date ________________
Begin investigating a topic that interests you from the list provided. You can use the sources provided to guide you in your research.

Areas to consider:

*celebrations/festivals  *clothing  *family life
*government  *afterlife  *funeral/burial practices
*childhood/school  *art/architecture  *religion
*government  *jobs  *theatre/leisure activities
*science/technology  *medicine/disease  *food

*You are not limited to these topics; if you have an idea, run it by your teacher. You may NOT research Greek mythology for this project.

Choose 3 – 4 sources
Due date __________

Write 3 – 5 research questions
Due date __________
Complete and share 3 works cited entries on Noodle Tools. Submit a typed “working” Works Cited to Google Docs or Turn It In.

Due date__________

Make 7-10 complete notecards that relate to your thesis

Due date__________

Write a thesis statement

Due date__________

Make an outline on Noodle Tools

Due date__________

Write a rough draft and submit it to Turn It In

Due date__________

Proofread, revise and write final draft and submit it to Turn It In

Due date__________

Detailed Requirements:

1. Paper Length: No less than 1½ pages in the body of the report.
   - Your paper should be a minimum of one and one-half pages and a maximum of three pages, not counting the citations, and bibliography pages
   - The body of the report will include your introduction with a thesis statement, three main body paragraphs, and conclusion.

2. Paper Format: Typed
   - Standard type face (Times New Roman ONLY!!)
   - Number pages except the title page
   - Double space (NOT BETWEEN PARAGRAPHS!!!)
   - 12 point type
   - Margins of 1” on all sides. (Use the standard page format on your word processor)
   - Do not use contractions such as “don’t” or “can’t”; use “do not” or “can not”
   - Single indentation at the start of a new paragraph
   - IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL STUDENTS USE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WORD PROCESSING PROGRAMS:
     - Google Docs, Microsoft Word, Pages, OpenOffice (PC), NeoOffice
3. **Sources: Minimum of three** (you may use more).
   - You must have at least **one primary source**, and one credible Internet source.
   - Be careful with Internet sources; they must be reliable and include an author and page publisher except with the permission of the teacher.
   - All references will be cited using the Modern Language Association (MLA) Style of Documentation.

4. **Works Cited:** A Works Cited page is an alphabetical list of sources you used in preparing your paper.
   - The bibliography is a separate sheet of paper that follows the main body of the paper and does not count toward the 1½ page paper requirement.

5. **Note Cards: Contain information about your topic.**
   - You will hand in a minimum of 7-10 note cards.
   - Each note card will contain factual information about your subject.
   - Notecards should be made using Noodle Tools.

6. **Visuals: (photographs, drawings, maps, charts, etc.)**
   - A visual may serve as your primary source.
   - Your report may contain visuals provided that they contribute to proving your thesis.
   - The visual does **not** count toward the page requirement.
   - All visuals will be located at the end of the paper in the Appendix.

7. **First Page:** Your English research paper does **not** need a title page.
   - At the top of the first page, at the left-hand margin, type (all on separate, double-spaced lines):
     - Your name
     - Your teacher’s name
     - The class name and period
     - The date
   - Then double-space again and center the title above your text (if your title requires more than one line, double-space between the lines).
   - Double-space again before beginning your text.
   - **The title should not be underlined, nor written in all capital letters. Capitalize only the first, last, and principal words of the title.**

8. **Self – Evaluation and Peer/Adult Evaluation:** The purpose of these evaluations is to give you a chance to find and fix problems before your paper receives a final grade.
   - Do not wait until the last minute to have your paper evaluated.
   - If the evaluation identifies a flaw, go back and fix it before handing in the paper.
Grading:

• Thesis 30%
  o Well-developed & directly addresses the topic
  o Takes a clear position

• Use of Facts & Evidence 30%
  o Evidence/details support thesis
  o Consistently relates evidence back to proving thesis
  o Ideas shows critical thinking & analysis
  o Demonstrates thorough knowledge of topic

• Structure & Writing Conventions 20%
  o Proper use of spelling, grammar, & punctuation (no errors)
  o Organization contributes to argument
  o Clear introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion
  o Smooth, varied transitions between paragraphs

• Research, Citation, & Format 20%
  o Proper number of resources used
  o All ideas, facts, & quotes cited properly
  o Perfect MLA format for: quotations, citations, works cited page, pagination

Resources for Research Paper

Duxbury Free Library
http://www.duxburyfreelibrary.org/

Duxbury Middle School Library Resources
http://dux.schoolwires.net/Page/1401

Noodle Tools
http://www.noodletools.com/

Tips for Using Google

MLA Style Guide
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

MLA In-Text Citations
http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_s1-0001.html

MLA Works Cited
http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_s1-0011.html
Sample Research Papers in MLA Format


Online Resources

http://www.ancientgreece.com/s/Main_Page/
http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/
http://www.ancient-greece.org
http://greece.mrdonn.org/
http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/greeks/
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/ancient_greeks/
http://www.richeast.org/htwm/greeks/costume/costume.html
http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/
http://www.ancient-egypt.org/
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/egyptians/
http://egypt.mrdonn.org/
http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/egypt/