Mr. Bedar

U.S. History

Junior Thesis

**Junior Thesis (JT) Milestone #2:**

**Background**:

Now that you have submitted your three proposed topics and received feedback from me on each one, it is time to narrow your thinking down to one single topic. You must pick ONE of the approved topics from JT Milestone #1 and begin the process of developing your thesis paper. First, you will develop an expertise in your area through extensive research. I do not expect that you will know enough about your topic to have developed a thesis yet. Your thesis will come only after you’ve done a fair amount of reading and really investigated the topic.

**Directions**: *Follow these steps to complete a successful topic proposal*

1. Set aside some uninterrupted time to explore your topic in detail to develop an understanding of the basic facts & history around your topic (who, what, when, where, etc.)
2. Begin a working bibliography of resources including BOOKS, journal articles, websites & others. You must have at least THREE sources at this point.
   1. You will be using parenthetical citations throughout your thesis paper and all citations will be done in MLA format *(more information to come)*
3. Create 20 note cards total – *note card information & layout attached –* must include the source name, topic, note card #, & notes
4. When you’ve developed a solid base of knowledge from your reading, develop 3 researchable questions that could potentially evolve into a thesis statement. Remember, these researchable questions should be ones that could evolve into a thesis statement that could be argued by an average person given the information available.

**Product**: *All components must be completed and present on Wed. 12/4*

* A one page, typed (single spaced) description of where your topic is taking you. Provide some basic information about your topic, but also answer these questions:
  + Are there important people, events, or theories within the realm of your topic?
  + What are the controversies surrounding your topic?
  + What arguments can be made about your topic?
* Bibliography: a typed, accurate, and up-to-date working bibliography (MLA format) with three sources (at least ONE BOOK)
  + I strongly suggest that you begin your bibliography as a separate word processing file on your computer immediately, and update it with new sources and corrections to the format as you go along.
  + Starting with JT #2, you *must* turn in a completely up-to-date and accurate bibliography page at each date, in addition to whatever else is required.