**11 APUSH**

**Mr. Bedar**

**The Junior Research Paper**

**(2014-2015)**

**Background**:

The Junior Thesis research paper is a unique opportunity for each of you to choose a historical topic in U.S. History that interests you, to research that topic in depth, and to write an analytical paper that reflects what you have learned. While this project and its length may seem daunting at first, you will emerge at the end with a substantial research paper of which you will be very proud.

**Overview Essentials:**

* Topic must be based in U.S. History and must be at least 20 years old.
* Minimum of 2 primary sources and 8 secondary sources. ***You are encouraged to exceed the minimum and to use quality, scholarly sources.***
* All Internet sources must have author and sponsor of the website identified. Use of Internet sources is restricted; you’re encouraged to use books and other printed material.
* Must use a variety of resources (primary and secondary) for the paper. General encyclopedias and textbooks do not count.
* Length: 4,000-4,500 words (approx. 250 words per page). Footnotes do not count.
* 12 pt. font, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins. Black ink, white paper, pages numbered.
* Footnotes required (but do not count toward overall word count).
* Bibliography must be annotated (evaluate source, how it was used, how useful it was, etc.; usually 3-5 sentences per source).
* Every completed junior thesis must have a word count written on the last page and one-two page bibliographic essay (describes the process you went through to write the paper. How was the topic chosen? What sources were used and in what order? What was fun? What wasn’t?)
* Each part of the thesis process is required, must be typed (With the exception of the note cards), will be graded, and will count as a major test grade in the 2nd term. (Each deadline counts 10 points; the process grade is worth a 60 point test overall. 5-point deduction for any late or incomplete work. You will not receive credit for the next deadline’s work until all previous work is completed satisfactorily).
* The Jr. Thesis counts 25% of the third term grade.
* Any junior thesis that does not cite and document sources shall receive a failing grade.
* Any cuts (unexcused absences) on any of the due dates will result in an automatic zero for that assignment, but you still have to make up the assignment before continuing on.

**Project Milestones: Put on Your Calendar!**

Because of the size of the project and the length of time involved (~ 10 weeks), we will be breaking the process down into a series of milestones. In order to help you pace yourself and spare you the inevitable pain that procrastination would surely produce, the following schedule of deadlines has been established:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Due Date** |
| **JT #1: Three Topic Proposals with Preliminary Bibliography:** * Type a proposal for 3 potential Jr. Thesis topics. For each topic, write ~1/2 page explaining: 1) what the topic is, 2) what you already know about the topic, 3) why the topic interests you, 4) five (5) questions you have about the topic.

 * Also, look in the Minuteman Library catalog and write down the books and/or journal articles you can find on your topics (use correct bibliographic format). If you have difficulty finding at least 5 for teach topic, it is likely that topic will not work for this assignment.

\*\*\*This is one of the MOST IMPORTANT steps in the Jr. Thesis process. You need to do some research to come up with workable topics. If you do not put in the time now, you will find yourself behind or stuck with a mediocre topic. | **Oct. 29, 2014 (Wed.)** |
| **JT #2: Finalized Proposal: one page description of paper, 3 sources on working bib, 30 notecards.** * Having done research and note taking by this point, you need to write a more definitive description of your paper and where your research is taking you. (What are the controversies with your topic? What arguments can you make about your topic? What do you imagine your thesis will argue?)
* Annotated sources for at least 3 sources in correct bibliographic format.
 | **November 7, 2014 (Fri.)** |
| **JT #3: Rough Outline with thesis statement and main topics in your paper, 65 notecards, and 6 sources on bib.*** This is the guide you will use as you write your paper. These topics should not be in complete sentences.
* The challenge of the rough outline is thinking through your paper and discerning the major sections of information, arguments, and overall flow of content. ;
 | **December 3, 2014 (Wed.)** |
| **JT#4: Detailed Outline, 100 notecards, updated annotated bibliography.*** Contains all of your evidence. This will be 8-10 pages typed and will be invaluable as you write the actual paper. In other words, this will be worth the effort.
* Annotated sources must be in correct bibliographic format; you should now have the required minimum number of primary and secondary sources.
 | **December 22, 2014 (Mon.)** |
| **JT #5: Rough Draft:*** A complete rough draft of your paper with footnotes and bibliography. The higher quality rough draft you submit, the more constructive feedback I can give you for the final draft.
 | **January 21, 2015 (Wed.)** |
| **JT #6: FINAL PAPER DUE!*** Consult the final paper checklist before Friday to make sure you have completed all the requirements for this assignment.
* Submit your rough draft and rough draft comment sheet with your final paper.
 | **February 2, 2015 (Mon.)** |
| Sleep in, relax, and bask in the knowledge that you have completed this major assignment and do not have to worry about it again. And return library books! |  |

**Putting the Masterpiece Together:**

1. Title Page:
	1. Title – center of page
	2. Name - - |
	3. Course - - | Lower right-hand corner of page
	4. Block - - |
	5. Date - - |
2. The Paper:
	1. 4000-4500 words
	2. Double-spaced
	3. 1 inch margins
	4. Block quotes if quotes are four lines or more (indent five spaces from both margins, single space, no quotation marks)
	5. Page numbers starting on second page of text; centered at bottom
	6. Footnotes (put footnote at the end of the sentence even if the quotation form a source is in the middle of the sentence)
3. Appendix (optional):
	1. Maps, pictures, drawings, etc. are to appear on appendix pages following the essay. Any visual should have a caption and should be noted in your paper.
4. Annotated Bibliography (correctly formatted!! Alphabetical!!):
	1. At least 8 secondary sources
	2. At least 2 primary sources
	3. All internet sources must have the author and sponsor of the website identified.
	4. No double space when entry is two or more lines. Also, indent second line.
	5. There should be a space between the bibliographic entry and the annotation. Single-space the annotation.
5. Bibliographic Essay.

**Other Notes/Helpful Hints:**

* Plagiarizing = disastrous. Thesis = graduation requirement.
* Stick to your thesis!!! Use it as your guide throughout your paper.
* Read, read, read!!! Take the time to actually read through the sources you compile and become something of an expert; you can solve problems before they really become problems by just reading a lot.
* Use primary sources whenever possible; show that you know how and when to incorporate quotes and paraphrase from primary sources (but use judiciously!)
* If you bring up opposing arguments, make sure to refute them in your paper.
* A research paper is not a report; your job is to *analyze* history, not just research it and describe it.