Research Project

This is your major research assignment for this year. As an extension of your reading of *Fast Food Nation*, *Half the Sky*, or *Nickel and Dimed*, we will be exploring different topics connected with food, gender issues, and poverty. The choice of topic will be yours, as long as it connects with one of these topics. Food safety, GMO modified crops, sustainability issues, organic foods, water safety and so forth could be narrowed into workable topics for food. For gender issues, look at things like equal pay for equal work, gender stereotypes, educational opportunities, portrayal of genders in the media, transgendered rights, etc. Poverty issues include raising the minimum wage, welfare reform, student debt, right-to-work laws, unemployment issues, the income equality gap, homelessness, etc. **Choose something you actually care about.**  It is very difficult to do a good job on a topic you don’t like (advice from personal experience).

To get an idea of things you could write about, check the following sites for ideas on topics.

**Topic sites**:

For food issues

<http://fnic.nal.usda.gov/topics-z>

<http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/en/>

<http://andevidencelibrary.com/a_z_index.cfm?content_code=index>

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/foodandnutrition.html>

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/nutrition-a-to-z/>

<http://www.foodsafety.wisc.edu/topicsA-Z/a-c.html>

For gender issues

<http://www.dhsprogram.com/topics/gender-Corner/>

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/subjects/w/women/index.html>

<http://www.eldis.org/gender/#.VnLRt2fSkps>

<http://www.hrc.org/explore/topic/transgender>

<https://www.hrc.org/explore>

For poverty issues

<http://guides.ll.georgetown.edu/c.php?g=270952&p=1808406>

<http://www.economist.com/topics/poverty>

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/rural-economy-population/rural-poverty-well-being.aspx>

<http://www.urban.org/research>

<https://www.seattleu.edu/poverty-education/resources/>

<http://web.stanford.edu/group/scspi/issue_home.html>

For gender issues

<http://www.apa.org/research/action/gender.aspx>

<http://www.gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/gender.pdf>

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTGENDER/0,,contentMDK:20619560~menuPK:1570210~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:336868,00.html>

<http://www.usatoday.com/topic/dac2fa1f-511f-4fef-b9ec-c4f30a0981ee/gender-issues/>

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0001523.html>

If you have a doubt about your idea, come and talk to me about it. Once you have determined your topic, please add it to the list posted in my room. You must have chosen a topic by **January 22th**. You must have a topic that is different, at least slightly, from everyone else in your hour (best if it is different from all the other students in all hours—this is why all topics are posted).

Your paper should be **argumentative**. This is not a report! There must be more than one side to the issue. “Food is necessary to sustain life” is not acceptable (too broad and not controversial). Start by writing a question that your paper will answer. The question will not be in your paper. You will submit this question on a form that I will provide.

Before you begin pestering me with questions about the paper, here are the requirements:

**Length**: 5-8 Pages. That’s five full pages, and I will not read beyond the bottom of page eight. Your Works Cited page does not count for length. **I’m not kidding!** Part of the assignment is focusing your topic to fit the size requirement. (Keep in mind there are 81 of you. If everyone writes eight pages, that is 648 pages, not including Works Cited pages, that I have to read). This is not, however, an excuse to write five pages when your topic really requires eight.

**Format**: MLA format, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 font or Arial 11. You must use the Noodletools resources to help you complete the paper. The software has features to help you take notes, organize your thoughts, make citations and write the paper. This resource may be accessed outside of school also.

**Resources**: You must use at least **7**. You should have source cards for at least 10. You may discard sources that do not help to advance your argument as well as you initially thought they would. This shows you have selected the most appropriate resources for your paper. This must include at least two print books (besides your initial text; database material does not count ), and one TEDtalks video or other video (if available; see me if you have trouble in this area). Other than that, you may use books, magazines, databases, RELIABLE internet sites, interviews. Sources should be no older than 2005 (unless approved by me). Please use the source card feature in Noodletools. Your Works Cited page will be an annotated bibliography that will explain why you chose the resource and why it is important to your paper. If you have a question as to whether a source is acceptable, ask Mrs. Lewis or Mrs. Schmidt.

**THIS PAPER MUST BE RESEARCHED WITH IN-TEXT CITATIONS AND A WORKS CITED PAGE.** Invariably, someone will turn in a paper that has no citations. Believe me, I will notice. **You cannot have a Works Cited page if you do not cite works. Works you do not cite from do not belong on the Works Cited page (Works Cited—get it?** Otherwise we would call it the Resources I Looked At page.) All direct quotations should be embedded. No floating quotes!

**Notecards:** I will require notecards for this assignment. You should use the notecard feature in Noodletools. Remember, you are responsible for accurately documenting your research. You will be required to write a lot of research papers in college, so you need to find a method of note taking that will work for you.

**Troubleshooting**: If you run into trouble, please talk to me about it. Together we can usually work together to solve problems. Not asking puts the responsibility entirely on you. You might consider consulting the Writing Center in the library if you need help. Peer reviews will be conducted on or before the date specified on Noodletools.

This final paper is worth **100 pts.** Some portions (thesis, outline, rough draft, Works Cited, etc.) will be due earlier and will have a certain number of points attached to each. **You may submit any portion of the paper early. You must have your paper turned in to Turnitin.com.** I will also require a hard copy for any questions I may have about the online version. You will be offered a chance to revise your final paper, which will give you a chance to gain 10 additional points, which would raise the score on your paper one letter grade. **This is optional. The final score will be part of your fourth quarter grade.**

**Due Dates:**

**General topic and book selection 1/13/16**

**Research question 1/26/16**

**Source cards (minimum 10) 1/29/16**

**Thesis Statement 2/1/16**

**Notecards (information—20 minimum) 2/5/16**

**Outline 2/10/16**

**Rough Draft 2/16/16**

**Peer Reviews and conferencing 2/19/16**

**Works Cited 2/22/16**

**Final Paper (Turnitin 2/28/16 11:59 p.m.) 2/29/16**

**Class Library Time:**

**January 25, 2016 through January 29, 2016. I will arrange occasional computer time for work on some parts of paper.**