**Senior Research Paper**

**English – Mrs. Buchholz - 2015**

**Requirements:**

* Your project needs to be set. Understand what you are doing/did and what components are/were needed. This will help with the research portion.
* Minimum of **three** sources for your project. One must be your mentor.
  + Everything needs to be cited in the proper MLA format.
  + Wikipedia and blog sites are not allowed.
    - Exception: if your mentor has a blog or wiki space, it is allowed – but it must be your mentor directly and your sharepoint site is allowed if you would need it for whatever reason.
* Generate an outline of your project and info that will be in your research paper.
  + This outline will be comprehensive.
* Create a rough draft of each section of your paper.
  + Mrs. Buchholz will look over and give comments.
  + This can be done electronically if you’d prefer.
* Final paper must be typed and printed out.
  + Calibri 11 pt or Times New Roman 12 pt
  + Double Space
  + Remove space after paragraph
  + 1 inch margins
  + In-Text citations
  + Works cited page in MLA format
    - May use Microsoft Word, Easybib.com, or citationmachine.com

**Writing:**

* Your paper will be composed of multiple sections with half being research based while the other portion is reflective.
* Proper writing techniques are expected. This includes an appropriate attention getter in your introduction, a strong thesis statement, a well-organized body with clear sub-points, and a satisfying conclusion.
* There are multiple factors that contribute to quality writing: the proper use of direct quotations, paraphrases, and summaries.
* Detail is important. Don’t assume the reader knows everything about your project.
* Abstract
  + This is an overview of your entire paper: history, reasoning for choosing it, and your actual project. It gives the readers a brief idea of what this paper is all about.
* Literature Review:
  + Brief history of topic (2-4 pages)
    - Include evolutions and major accomplishments
  + Or…process and components of topic (2-4 pages)
    - Include specifics of each component
  + Please include how your topic is important to history and/or society based on your research.
    - What did/does it contribute?
    - This section is in the literature review, that means you need to have research to support your sentences, not your opinion.
* Transitions and Notations:
  + Connection between your topic and your experience (1-2 pages)
    - How do they connect?
    - What parts of your research have you been able to use in your senior experience?
    - How did you choose this topic?
    - What/who influenced you?
* Methodology:
  + Overview of what your project entails (1-2 pages)
    - Specific details of what you did to complete the project
    - Time requirements
    - Monetary requirements
    - Physical requirements
    - Final Product
* Findings and Reflection:
  + How did/will this senior experience help you grow? \*This part should be reflective\* (1-2 pages)
    - What were your struggles?
      * How did you overcome them?
    - What did you gain?
      * Personally and/or socially?
      * Skills?
    - How can you apply this experience or attributes/skills gained later in life?
* In other words, write about your experience. This is a SENIOR experience and you are a SENIOR. This paper should reach the 8-10 page mark. Remember: You are writing about your experience, what you learned, and how you’ve grown through this experience. A reflective essay is going to ask you to be specific, provide detail, but also tap into your personal thoughts and experiences.
* \*This project is a tremendous part of your first semester grade and your overall senior experience completion. Please plan to **work outside of class** on it as well. In order for this to be counted as on-time, items including your final paper are due at the beginning of class. They are printed before you get to class as well.

I understand this is project is two-fold. It satisfies the requirements of my senior project and it also counts toward an individual grade in my senior English class. I understand that I must meet all of the requirements, including timelines for research and getting the outline and rough draft to Mrs. Buchholz on time, and the due dates as shown on the following side.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_