Research paper

Research in a Discipline

In this paper, you will address the following:

--Develop a personal mission statement that generally defines who you want to be in life.
--Identify a major and specific desired career.
--Determine what is currently required to attain success in that particular career.
--Research the responsibilities, salary range, benefits, etc. of the career.
--Research and report on someone prominent and/or successful in your chosen field of study and write a detailed account of how he or she accomplished success.

The criteria for this paper are as follows:
--It must be 4 full pages. It must be typed, stapled, and double spaced using a 12-point font and Times New Roman typeset. Leave margins of 1 inch, and do not include a cover page.
--Your paper must have a title, a topic outline of your paper, and a separate and paginated Works Cited Page. The topic outline and the works cited page do not count towards the page requirement.
--The paper must use and cite three outside sources to include 1 book, 1 journal/magazine/newspaper article, and 1 reliable Internet source.
--Sources must be documented in MLA style both within the text and on the Works Cited Page.
--The paper must proceed in a logical, well-balanced order. (Use transitional words to connect your ideas. Refer to pages 90-91 in The Simon and Schuster Handbook for a complete list of transitional words.
--The paper must contain sufficient background information about the field in general, the path you will take and about the person you have chosen as a model.
--The biographical model portion of the paper will be no longer than 1/4 of the overall paper length.

Papers that do not meet these requirements will not be accepted.

Remember that the purpose of this paper is to take you through a major decision-making process based on evidence and what you can conclude from it. From this you will have developed a working plan of action to improve your chances for success. Avoid addressing your readers directly as “you.” Since this paper will be about your career choice, you will use “I” in your paper.

Please note that if the person you choose as a model is someone that you know personally, you must include a 1-2 page interview with that person. The interview itself will be an additional source, which means that you will still have to integrate three outside sources into your writing. You will use the interview just as any other source within the paper by summarizing, paraphrasing and/or quoting from the interview. The interview itself does not count as part of the length of the research paper. If you do not know your role model personally, you will still have to find information about that person.

Writing a research paper does not simply mean listing quotes and writing aimlessly to fulfill the page requirement. The purpose of a research paper is to gather information/sources on your topic, synthesize/analyze the contents of the sources in relation to the focus of your paper, and incorporate these sources into your paper in order to support your thesis.
Documentation of sources:

Pages 484-621 in The Simon and Schuster Handbook give a full background on research projects. Many questions that you may have regarding the formalities of writing research papers, including MLA documentation and plagiarism, can be answered by referencing this section. While you will need to study some of the sections here carefully, you will not need to study this whole section of the text to complete your paper. Pay close attention to the sample research paper on pages 600-621.

You may not write your research paper on a topic different than the one that is assigned. Papers that focus on a different topic will receive a failing grade.

Due date:

The research paper is due Friday, December 1, in class. Late papers will not be accepted under any circumstances. No exceptions.

Requirements:

Your research paper must be typed, stapled, and double-spaced. Handwritten work will not be accepted. Papers that do not follow MLA format will receive a grade of “D” or less.

You must submit your paper to http://www.turnitin.com. Papers that are not submitted to the website will not be graded and will receive a grade of 0. No exceptions. You must also bring a printed copy of your paper to class on Friday, December 1.

Your research paper must be 4 full pages. It must have an introduction, a thesis statement, 4 or more supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion. It must include a topic outline, 4-5 in-text/parenthetical citations, and a list of works cited.

Proofread your paper before you hand it in. Make sure that there are no fragments, run-on/fused sentences, comma splices, misplaced commas, or misspelled words in your paper.


Plagiarism: Copying, inaccurately documenting, or misrepresenting any source as your own will result in an immediate failure for this course. No exceptions.

The grade you will receive on this assignment will be worth 30% of your final grade.