**Junior Research Paper (J.R.P.)**

Welcome to the Junior Research Paper! For the bulk of the remainder year, you will be researching a topic from the list provided and writing a paper, which takes a position on this topic and argues it.  While the bulk of this work will be done during third quarter, and you will have checkpoints throughout that will be factored in to your third term grade, this paper will be a **FOURTH** term grade. We will be getting into more specifics about the research and writing process later, but for now what you need to know is:

**Option One:**

Specifications:

4-5 pages

Typed

Times New Roman, black, 12-point font.

Double-spaced

1” margins

Chicago format footnote citations

Annotated works cited page

Source requirements:

5 primary sources- this is a minimum

5 secondary sources

1 tertiary source

Minimum of 11 sources TOTAL.

There will be several checkpoints along the way to make sure that you are making adequate progress on this paper, and that you are not saving all the work for the night before it is due. This paper is not one that can be successfully completed in a short period of time. While we will have multiple occasions in class to work on writing this paper, the bulk of the research and writing will be done on your own time.

Option two:

US II CP Research Project

**Objectives**:

Students will construct historical narratives about the past.

Students will explain HOW they constructed these narratives by identifying the evidence they used and justifying the inclusion of this evidence. This will involve the production of an analytical writing piece.

Students will present their narratives and justifications to a wider audience.

**What am I producing?**

Over the course of the year, you will

1. Select a topic from the present that interests you
2. Create a research question about your topic
3. Conduct research on that topic using primary and secondary sources
4. Write an analytical piece in response to your research question
5. Write a reflection piece explaining why your conclusion MATTERS to the present day
6. Create a exhibition to convey your message to a wider audience
7. Will need to include the same number of sources, topic selection, annotated bibliography, outline of what you plan to make and say, and notes as the paper.

**Why am I doing this?**

Aside from the fact that you have to in order to pass US II? Well, because this project will have you show mastery over research, writing and presenting skills, and perhaps

Checkpoints:

Jan.: Research Topic Selection: 1-2 Page defense of why you want to research this topic

Feb 28th: Research Progress Check. 1-2 Page check in. Do you still like your topic? Last chance to change.

March 8th: Notes on source 1 & 2 due (Note cards or google docs)

March 15th: Notes on sources 3 & 4 due (Note Cards or google docs )

March 22nd: Notes on sources 5 & 6 due (Note Cards or google docs )

March 26th : Notes on sources 7 & 8 due (Note Cards or google docs )

March 29th: Notes on sources 9 due (Note Cards or google docs )

April12: Annotated Bibliography

April26:  Introduction & outline due

April29: Rough Draft due for peer edits

May10 : FINAL DRAFT DUE

Mr. Walsh has the right to move these dates as events throughout the year occur.

**US II C.P Research Paper Topics**

Research questions for this assignment must be generated from this list of topics. Topics not included on this list must be pre-approved by Mr. Walsh.

Choose a topic that is of interest to you. The topic must deal with U.S. history in some form - social, political, economic, religious, military, diplomatic, etc.

The topic **must** do one of the following:

* Explore a thought-provoking and controversial question
* Compare two events or people in history
* Evaluate an event or time period, or the impact of a particular person

Topics that are **unacceptable**:

* Conspiracy theories - Who shot JFK?
* Straight biography - you may choose a topic dealing with one person, but not in a biography format. Ask a question like “Did Eugene V. Debs help or hurt the labor movement?” You will spend very little of the paper discussing his early life.

A **research question** allows you to look at a topic from a certain perspective and draw a conclusion from your research. While the Colt Firearms Factory and Samuel Colt are topics, asking the question “What effect did the Colt Empire have on Hartford?” allows you to make a point and draw a conclusion.

Choose a question that is neither too broad nor too narrow. If you want to write about Colt, you might ask these questions:

1. Who was Samuel Colt?
2. How did Colt’s pursuits affect American history?
3. What effect did the Colt Empire have on Hartford?

Question one is too narrow - it can be answered in one sentence. Question two is too broad because you might have to explore several topics from his invention of the revolver to his contributions to the Civil War and you might lose focus. Question three is focused enough to stick to one topic, yet broad enough to research in some depth.

When you are developing a research question, be sure to choose a topic that can actually be researched. List all the questions you would like answered. Do a preliminary search to see what types of sources are available for research. Read an overview source (a source that summarizes the main points of your topic) to help you choose the best question for your research. The perspective from which you choose to explore your research question will develop into your thesis statement

**Political History**

The significance of a specific political election: presidential, congressional, etc.

The origins and significance of any third party

Compare and contrast presidential policy of a specific issue (Ex: Hoover and Roosevelt’s response to the Great Depression)

Evaluate the foreign policy and legacy of Woodrow Wilson: idealist or realist?

Evaluate the significance and legacy of a political scandal (Ex: Teapot Dome, Iran-Contra, Credit Mobilier)

Evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the Republican presidents of the 1920s

Evaluate the impact and legacy of FDR’s New Deal - To what extent did it bring about positive change?

The short and long-term effects of the U.S. involvement in the Philippines

The internment of the Japanese Americans during WW II

The rise of McCarthyism

The causes and consequences of the Reagan Revolution

President \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the modern Civil Rights Movement

Presidential policy towards the Vietnam conflict

The First Amendment in the 20th century

The legacy of the 1969 Democratic National Convention

Watergate: causes, consequences, legacy

The effects of the fall of communism in the USSR

**Social and Intellectual History**

Analyzing art, literature, music and or fashion of certain times: Use this theme to discuss a larger political, economic or social issue. **Example:** *How did music during the Vietnam era reflect the sentiment of the population?*

The significance of the prohibition of alcohol

Progressive Era reforms: trust busting, muckrakers, temperance, etc.

The development of the labor movement

The causes and results of the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Fire

The immediate and long-term effects of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake

The significance of the *Gospel of Wealth,* Social Darwinism

Nativism during the 20th century

The significance of the Sacco and Vanzetti trial and conflict during the 1920s

The significance and impact of the Harlem Renaissance

Origins of Jazz and/or The Blues and the effect on society

How the Great Depression changed the social fabric of American life

Compare and contrast the ideas and goals of Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois

Compare and contrast the Red Scare of the 1920s to the one in the 1950s

The causes and impact of the 1918 influenza epidemic

Popular culture and mass media during the 1950s

The Modern Civil Rights Movement - choose one: significant legislation, impact of a particular political leader, impact of a particular event or activist, success and failures

The role of women in the post-WW II era

The evolution of the Women’s Movement 1950-1970 - goals, successes, challenges, activists

The impact of Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique*

The rise of the American suburb and its significance on U.S. geography, demography, ET.

The African-American northern migration of either the early 19th century or the 1950s

The significance of Cesar Chavez and the Migrant Farm Workers Movement

The effectiveness of Title IX on equal rights for women in education and the professional spheres

The effect of Kent State on public opinion of the Vietnam War

The Nation of Islam - origins, goals, impact of the Civil Rights Movement

Jackie Robinson’s contribution to desegregation of Major League Baseball and the Civil Rights Movement

The role and impact of the government-sponsored Indian schools

The impact of the Dust Bowl on children in terms of work, living conditions, education, migration

The effect of the Immigration Acts of the 1920s

The environmental movement - history and impact

The evolution of the Peace Corps

**Religion in America**

The significance of the Scopes Trial

The rise of conservative fundamentalism and its impact

Anti-Semitism in modern American history

The Social Gospel Movement

Supreme Court decisions concerning religious issues

**Military History**

The contributions of African-Americans , women, or Native Americans during WWI or WW II

The effects of U.S. military intervention: Panama, Grenada, Dominican Republic, etc.

The Truman-MacArthur debate during the Korean War

The significance of the Cuban Missile Crisis

The causes and impact of the Spanish-American War

The significance of the Mai Lai Massacre on U.S. public opinion in the Vietnam War

Examine the impact on the American Home-front of a war in the 20th or 21st centuries

The causes, outcome and significance of a particular battle in U.S. History: (Meuse-Argonne, Battle of Midway, Coral Sea, Iwo Jima, etc.)

The significance and results of the Bay of Pigs

The impact of advanced weapons technology on WW I

The causes and results of the First Gulf War

**Foreign Policy**

The reasons for American involvement in WW I

Wilson’s foreign policy at the end of WW I - Fourteen Points

Successes, failures and long-term impact of the Treaty of Versailles

American foreign policy in the 1920s

An evaluation of America’s decision to not sign the Treaty of Versailles

An evaluation of the Marshall Plan

An evaluation of the Yalta Agreement

An evaluation of the containment policy in Europe

Origins of the Cold War

Impact of the Cold War on America’s relations in Latin America, the Middle East, Asia or Europe

The origins and legacy of the Vietnam War

U.S. involvement and policies regarding the creation of Israel

American-Chinese relations 1949-2000

The role of America in response to the Holocaust

The Dawes Plan

The United States and the United Nations

**Economic History**

Evaluate the impact of the Robber Barons and captains of industry

The origins and impact of the Great Depression

Evaluate the successes and failures of the New Deal

Evaluate the short and long-term impact of LBJ’s Great Society

Evaluate the economic philosophy of Reagan - “Reaganomics”

The Currency Debate and the Populist Party

The Occupy Movement and its meaning