**Informative Research Project**

Paper Requirements:

1. Papers should be typed with double spacing, and 1” margins using 12-point Times New Roman font **only**. The works cited page should be included on a separate page.
2. Include introductory and concluding paragraphs that clearly identify the topic you are researching and the main points of your essay.
3. All sources must be properly cited using MLA Style both in the text and in a works cited section so that readers can find and evaluate your sources.
4. Essay should draw on at least four different published sources, two of which must be from scholarly peer-reviewed books or journal articles from the library database.
5. Essay should be well-written, spell-checked, and proof-read.

Grading Rubric:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **10** | **8** | **6** | **4** |
| **Focus**  | Well-developed introductory paragraph contains a hook, a detailed background, a clear explanation or definition of the topic, and a thesis statement. | Introductory paragraph contains some background and states the topic but does not explain using details. States the thesis of the paper. | Introduction states the thesis but does not adequately explain the background of the topic. The topic is stated, but lacks detail. | Thesis and/or topic is vague or unclear. Background details are a seemingly random, unclear, or not related to the topic. |
| **Development** | Three or more main details are well developed with supporting evidence that have a clear connection to the topic. | Three or more main details are present but lack examples and development in one or two.  | Three or more main details are present, but all lack development or seem to stray from the topic. | Less than three main details with poor development of ideas. |
| **Evidence** | Supports the topic with facts and examples, demonstrating an understanding of the topic. Source integration is smooth and coherent. | Supports the topic with examples that demonstrate some understanding of the topic.  | Evidence is not relevant or the connection between the topic and the evidence are not explained. | Lacks evidence and relevance. |
| **Organization** | Logical, compelling progression of ideas in essay; clear structure which enhances and showcases the topic and moves the reader through the text. Organization flows so smoothly the reader hardly thinks about it. Effective, mature, graceful transitions exist throughout the essay. | Overall, the paper is logically developed. Progression of ideas in essay makes sense and moves the reader easily through the text. Strong transitions exist throughout and add to the essay’s coherence | Progression of ideas in essay is awkward, yet moves the reader through the text without too much confusion. The writer sometimes lunges ahead too quickly or spends too much time on details that do not matter. Transitions appear sporadically, but not equally throughout the essay. | Arrangement of essay is unclear and illogical. The writing lacks a clear sense of direction. Ideas, details or events seem strung together in a loose or random fashion; there is no identifiable internal structure and readers have trouble following the writer’s line of thought. Few, forced transitions in the essay or no transitions are present. |
| **Mechanics** | Sentence structure is correct. Punctuation and capitalization are correct. | Sentence structure is generally correct. Some awkward sentences do appear. There are one or two errors in punctuation and/or capitalization. | Work contains structural weaknesses and grammatical errors. There are three or four errors in punctuation and/or capitalization. | Work contains multiple incorrect sentence structures. There are four or more errors in punctuation and/or capitalization. |
| **MLA Style** | Source material is smoothly integrated into the text. All sources are accurately documented in the desired format both in the text and on a Works Cited page. Formatting is used according to MLA style. | Source material is used. All sources are accurately documented, but a few are not in the desired format. Some sources lack credibility. | Source material is used, but integration may be awkward. All sources are accurately documented, but many are not in the desired format or lack credibility. | Lacks sources and/or sources are not accurately documented. Format is incorrect for all sources. |