**A World in Conflict: Research-Based Writing Project**

Explore the most trying times in our world’s history through the means of a either an informative essay or a narrative essay. While each text will have its own unique features, both are based in the fundamental practice of using research from at least four different sources to influence writing. Narrative writers will harness research to paint a picture of life during the time period of choice; informative writers will weave research into an educational essay covering various aspects of the time period of choice. Use the rubric below as your guide:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Informative Essay** | **Both** | **Narrative Essay** |
|  **MLA Style** | **Evidence** | **Focus** | **Organization** | **Mechanics** | **Dialogue** | **Techniques** | **Bibliography** |
| **A** | 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. Figure formatting is used according to MLA style. | Three or more main details are well developed. Supports the topic with facts and examples, demonstrating understanding of the topic. Source integration is smooth and coherent. | Well-developed introductory paragraph contains a hook, a detailed background, a clear explanation or definition of the topic, and a thesis statement. | Logical, compelling progression of ideas/events; clear structure which enhances and showcases the topic and moves the reader through the text. Effective transitions exist throughout. | Sentence structure is correct. Punctuation and capitalization are correct. | Writing follows the conventions of dialogue without exception. Dialogue demonstrates an insightful understanding of the task. | The text demonstrates deliberate use of literary elements, showing details with rich sensory language and mood to convey a realistic picture of the experiences, setting, and characters. | Citations are formatted correctly in the document.All annotations are thoughtful, complete, and well written. |
| **B** | Source material is used. All sources are accurately documented, but a few are not in the desired format. Some sources lack credibility. | Details lack examples and development in one or two.Supports the topic with examples that demonstrate some understanding of the topic.  | Introductory paragraph contains some background and states the topic but does not explain using details. States the thesis of the paper. | Overall, the paper is logically developed. Progression of ideas/events in essay makes sense and moves the reader easily through the text. | Sentence structure is generally correct. Some awkward sentences do appear. There are a few errors. | Writing follows the conventions of dialogue with few exceptions. Dialogue demonstrates a solid understanding of the task. | The text utilizes literary elements effectively, but the overall picture of experiences, setting, and characters is under-developed.  |  There are a few formatting errors in the document’s citations.Most annotations are thoughtful and complete. |
|  **MLA Style** | **Evidence** | **Focus** | **Organization** | **Mechanics** | **Dialogue** | **Techniques** | **Bibliography** |
| **C** | Source material is used, but integration is awkward. All sources are documented but not in the desired format. | Evidence is not relevant or the connection between the topic and the evidence are not explained. | Introduction does not adequately explain the background of the topic. The topic is stated, but lacks detail. | Progression of ideas/events in essay is awkward, yet moves the reader through the text without too much confusion. | Work contains structural weaknesses and numerous grammatical errors.  | Writing mostly follows the conventions of dialogue.Dialogue demonstrates an unclear understanding of the task. | The text attempts to use some literary elements but doesn’t quite paint a picture in readers’ minds. |  There are many and/or frequent formatting errors in the document’s citations. Most annotations are lacking. |
| **D** | Lacks sources and/or sources are not accurately documented. Format is incorrect for all sources. | Less than three main details with poor development of ideas. Lacks evidence and relevance. | Thesis and/or topic is vague or unclear. Background details are a seemingly random, unclear, or not related to the topic. | 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. | Work contains multiple incorrect sentence structures. There are four or more errors in punctuation and/or capitalization. | Dialogue is not written in conventional form. Dialogue demonstrates a lack of understanding of the task. | The text lacks narrative techniques and merely retells events and/or experiences. |  There is little or no adherence to MLA format.All annotations are lacking. |

Life of Jesus of Nazareth The Atomic Bombings The Black Plague The Great Depression

The American Revolution The War on Drugs The Civil Rights Movement The Roswell Incident

Tearing Down the Berlin Wall The European Renaissance Concentration Camps Jack the Ripper

Nazi Medical Experiments The Korean War The Trenches of World War I Salem Witch Trials

The Vietnam War The Boston Tea Party The Wild West Woman Suffrage

The Watergate Scandal Sinking of the Titanic Gay Liberation Movement AIDS Epidemic

The Civil War The Rwandan Genocide The Cold War Life of Jackie Robinson

OJ Simpson Trial Roe vs. Wade Prohibition The Oregon Trail

Jim Crow Laws The Crusades Space Race Jonestown Massacre