

Interdisciplinary Research Paper for Grade 11
200 points

Assignment: Write a research paper that focuses on connections between English and Social Studies. Please refer to both rubrics for guidelines. Each rubric is based on 100 points for a total score of 200 points.

Directions:

1. Choose one essential question from the list below.
2. Select a topic that relates to the question.
3. Write a thesis statement.
4. Develop an outline (you may use topic, sentence, or Inspiration software for cluster outline)
5. Research your topic.
6. Annotate notes to be submitted with both first and final drafts.
7. Compile Works Cited page using two primary and two literary sources.
8. Peer review using checklist.
9. Revise.
10. Submit two copies of your first draft in a folder labeled with your name and include all notes, outline, and Works Cited page.
11. Revise.
12. Submit two copies of your final draft in a folder labeled with your name and include all notes, outline, and first draft.

Criteria: This Mini-Interdisciplinary Research Paper must be 3-4 pages TYPED and must include the following components:

1. **Title Page**
2. **Outline**
3. **Paper (3-4 pages TYPED!!!!)**
4. **Paper must follow MLA format of Set-up and pagination**
5. **Paper must include approx. 3-5 Quotes (Cited in MLA format!)**
6. **Appendix (OPTIONAL)**
7. **Works Cited Page (list of sources cited in paper – approx. 3)**
8. **Works Consulted (list of sources used for research on Topic 3-5)**

Citations: Please see *Writing a Research Paper Guide* pages 109-114.

Timeline: Begin research process in February. Final draft must be turned in to English teacher by _____. Your English teacher will share your folders with the Social Studies teacher no later than _____.

Essential Questions for Interdisciplinary Research Paper
Choose One

Question and topic choice are due:

1. How is the American Dream a myth for some members of our society?

Narrow your focus to one group during one period or significant event.

2. What enables an individual to attain the American Dream?

Focus on qualities needed and evidence of attaining the dream for an individual or a specific group.

3. How have we demonstrated our core values as Americans?

Focus on a key value or two demonstrating evidence from American activities, actions, laws, etc.

4. How has music, poetry, prose, or journalism been used to influence political and/or societal ideas or values?

Focus on a particular period and connect the music, poetry, prose, or journalism to specific political or societal issues.

5. What are the aspects of a defining societal issue, and how does it reshape the course of history?

Focus on one defining issue from one period. Be sure to discuss the changes it sparked. These are some of the topics you might choose to answer through your essential question. Choose one.

1. Forced Exile of Native American Indians onto Reservations
2. Contemporary Native American issue
3. Story of John Smith and Pocahontas in relation to contemporary Native American stereotypes
4. One aspect of the Salem Witch Trials
5. One topic related to Slavery of Blacks/Civil War Period/The Underground Railroad
6. One topic related to the Industrial Age in America
7. the contemporary debate surrounding fairness in immigration laws
8. The Ku Klux Klan (First Wave Civil War or Second Wave 1920s)
9. Child Labor Laws
10. Prohibition of the 1920's
11. Organized Crime in a defined period
12. One topic related to the Jazz Age (ie. Hollywood morality)
13. The Harlem Renaissance
14. Women's Right to Vote
15. The Stock Market Crash
16. The Great Depression (unequal distribution of wealth, abandonment of capitalist system, etc.)

17. Focused topic from one of these wars-WW1/WW2/Vietnam War/Korean War/Cold War
18. McCarthyism
19. Desegregation of Public Schools
20. Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott
21. Martin Luther King Jr/nonviolence during Civil Rights movement
22. Woodstock/The Counter Culture - Era of Anti-War Protests
23. The Cuban Missile Crisis
24. Stonewall/The Gay Rights Movement
25. The Banning of Books/Literature in Schools
26. Any Specific/Defining Political, Social, Literary, or Societal Issue (Approved)
27. Any American Figure who defines The American Dream – 1920-Present:
Donald Trump, Bill Gates, Oprah Winfrey, Sonia Mayor, Steve Jobs, Mark Zuckerberg,
etc..... (Approved)
28. Any Contemporary American Issue Today - its Political/Social/Economic Impact?
(Approved)
29. YOUR CHOICE OF TOPIC??? (Approved)

FORMULATING YOUR FOCUS/THESIS STATEMENT:

Thesis statements must be approved by me. This is the entire foundation of your paper. Carefully formulate a thesis with a blueprint. I have given you an example.

Thesis is due: _____

Pages 70-72 in *Writing a Research Paper*

Choose your essential question and your topic. Start with the sentence stem

What I want to say about . . . is that

Question #1

What I want to say about McCarthyism **is that** the myth of the American dream of freedom of expression and protection from tyranny was clearly demonstrated when falsity, fear, and the Red Scare caused the entertainment industry to face an unfair reality of censorship that changed our artistic history.

Now, get rid of the sentence stem and clean up your statement. Remember your thesis should be “a single declarative sentence that states the controlling idea of your research paper” (Goldenberg 70).

McCarthyism underscores the myth that freedom of expression and protection from oppression are guaranteed rights embodied in the American Dream. Deceptiveness and political corruption stripped away those guarantees in the entertainment industry through fear-based censorship.

These are difficult to write. You must spend some time writing and rewriting. You must do some research first to define where you think you’ll go with your paper.

*****INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PAPER: ENGLISH 11/BOUTIN
FORMULATING YOUR FOCUS/THESIS STATEMENT.**

Q#1: the American Dream as Myth?
-is it *achievable/attainable* for all?

- *Issues/setbacks/obstacles/hindrances=**
- political?
 - economic/\$? - affluence/middle class
poverty
 - social/societal status?
 - education/schooling?
 - racial?
 - gender?
 - sexuality?

Q#2: the American Dream?
-how is it *achievable/attainable*?

- *opportunities=**
- money/financial/\$
 - family legacy
 - education/schooling
 - hardwork/ambition/drive
 - work ethic/perseverance
 - strong values/principles/morals
 - success
 - connections/contacts
 - opening doors of opportunities
 - climbing the ladder of success
 - overcoming struggles/setbacks/obstacles
 - sense of achievement/accomplishment
 - sense of self-worth/self-pride

Q#3: Core Values as Americans?

- honesty/integrity
- honor
- loyalty
- trust
- hardwork/ambition
- work ethic
- perseverance
- success
- education/schooling
- money/financial/\$
- acceptance
- equality
- embracing tolerance/diversity
- sacrifice

**Q#4: Influence of Music/Poetry/
Prose OR Journalism on
Political and/or Social
Issues In America?**

- Its impact/influence on
event/issue and America?
- How does it define/capture/
support/oppose/satirize the
event/issue?
- How does it parallel the
event/issue?
- Is there a thematic value?
- Did it empower? sway opinions?
create a bias?

**Q#5: A defining societal issue? - How did it (does it) reshape or
revolutionize the course of American history?**

- How did it create a national awareness?
- Its immediate effects/consequences/repercussions?
- Its long-term effects?
- How was it a catalyst for future events?

*****IMPORTANT DATES:**

MINI-INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PAPER

- (10 pts.) 1. CHOICE OF TOPIC: due Mon. Feb. 3rd
2. LIBRARY RESEARCH TIME: MEDIA CENTER
- "GREEN" DAYS: 2/3, 2/5, 2/7, 2/11, 2/13
3. IN-CLASS WRITING OF
ROUGH DRAFT OF PAPER: TBA
- (10 pts.) 4. THESIS STATEMENT: due Tue Feb 11th
- (10 pts.) 5. TITLE PAGE: due Thur. Feb 13th
- (10 pts.) 6. OUTLINE: due Mon. Feb 24th
- (20 pts.) 7. FOLDER OF NOTETAKING/
RESEARCH MATERIAL: due Wed. Feb. 26th
- (10 pts.) 8. WORKS CONSULTED: due Tue. March 4th
(at least 3-5 sources)
- (10 pts.) 9. WORKS CITED PAGE: due Thur. March 6th
(at least 3 sources)
- =80 pts.

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- (100 pts.) 10. ROUGH DRAFT: due Wed. March 12th
(at least 6-8 pages HANDWRITTEN)
(approx. 3-4 pages TYPED!!!)
- (100 pts.) 11. FINAL DRAFT: due March 18th-21st
(3-4 pages TYPED!!!)

***TOTAL RESEARCH PAPER PROJECT VALUE: =280 PTS.**

