You have to write a research paper?

Tips to help you tackle that assignment!
The Basics

- Due date
- How long is the paper?
- Format
- Citation style
- How many sources?
- What kinds of sources?
RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT

A. REQUIREMENTS:

1. 2500-2750 words (about 10-11 typewritten pages), double-spaced. (TWO COPIES OF YOUR FINAL RESEARCH PAPER ARE REQUIRED.)

2. Include as part of the finished final paper, in the following order: Title page, Essay, your Annotated Bibliography of works consulted, plus a Works Cited (MLA) or References (APA) page in correct documentation format. If using APA, do NOT provide headings or an abstract, as Troyka shows.

3. YOU MUST USE/REFER TO AT LEAST 8 SOURCES, THREE OF WHICH COME FROM SCHOLARLY JOURNALS (i.e., articles in scholarly journals document their own references). ****Please note that these are requirements: students who fail to use the stated number and kind of sources will face serious penalties. For example, you cannot receive more than a C on the paper if you have only two of the required scholarly journal articles.***

Note, also, that a dictionary or encyclopedia does not count as one of the required 8 sources, and an abstract in itself does not count as a source. If you have ANY questions regarding the relevancy or usefulness of a potential source, please do not hesitate to ask me. Your goal is to find the BEST sources, not just the required kind or number, so you should aim at identifying/locating approx. 20 sources to start and determining which ones are best to use.

4. You are limited in how many Internet sources you may use; only ONE Internet source may be included in the minimum of 8 sources without prior approval. Any additional Internet sources which you would like to use must be discussed with me.

5. A photocopy of all materials used. For books, photocopy the pages/chapters you used, the cover page, and any footnotes/endnotes referred to by author. For journal articles, photocopy the entire article, including any footnotes/endnotes. Please print out any Internet materials. Please staple all photocopies and label them when necessary.

6. Correct MLA or APA format for in-text citations, the Annotated Bibliography, and the Works Cited or References page.

7. Please note: I will not read/accept a paper which I have not seen in a prior draft conference. To receive credit (and pass the course), you must do all the preliminary library assignments, as well as submit required drafts. Conferences are mandatory.
RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT

A. REQUIREMENTS:

1. 2500-2750 words (about 10-11 typewritten pages), double-spaced. (TWO COPIES OF YOUR FINAL RESEARCH PAPER ARE REQUIRED.)

2. Include as part of the finished final paper, in the following order: Title page, Essay, your Annotated Bibliography of works consulted, plus a Works Cited (MLA) or References (APA) page in correct documentation format. If using APA, do NOT provide headings or an abstract, as Troyka shows.

3. YOU MUST USE/REFER TO AT LEAST 8 SOURCES, THREE OF WHICH COME FROM SCHOLARLY JOURNALS (i.e., articles in scholarly journals document their own references). ***Please note that these are requirements; students who fail to use the stated number and kind of sources will face serious penalties. For example, you cannot receive more than a C on the paper if you have only two of the required scholarly journal articles.*** Note, also, that a dictionary or encyclopedia does not count as one of the required 8 sources, and an abstract in itself does not count as a source. If you have ANY questions regarding the relevancy or usefulness of a potential source, please do not hesitate to ask me. Your goal is to find the BEST sources, not just the required kind or number, so you should aim at identifying/locating approx. 20 sources to start and determining which ones are best to use.

4. You are limited in how many Internet sources you may use; only ONE Internet source may be included in the minimum of 8 sources without prior approval. Any additional internet sources which you would like to use must be discussed with me.

5. A photocopy of all materials used. For books, photocopy the pages/chapters you used, the cover page, and any footnotes/endnotes referred to by author. For journal articles, photocopy the entire article, including any footnotes/endnotes. Please print out any internet materials. Please staple all photocopies and label them when necessary.

6. Correct MLA or APA format for in-text citations, the Annotated Bibliography, and the Works Cited or References page.

7. Please note: I will not read/accept a paper which I have not seen in a prior draft conference. To receive credit (and pass the course), you must do all the preliminary library assignments, as well as submit required drafts. Conferences are mandatory.
Other parts of an assignment

• What type of paper will you be writing?
• What is the purpose of the assignment?
Purpose?
Explore a topic that is controversial.

Type of paper?
Argumentative
A few more critical components of the assignment

3. You may not duplicate an assignment done for another class, nor submit the same research project you did in high school or at another institution.

4. The question must be broad enough that you can only answer it adequately by consulting a variety of sources. Take care, however, that your topic is not TOO broad, for you will find it hard to discuss it sufficiently in ten-eleven pages (for example, topics like "welfare reform" or "educational reform" need to be significantly narrowed).

5. Your question must require interpretation of information: analysis and evaluation, not just the collection of ideas, opinions, and data. You will need not only to report on what you find, but also to evaluate, question, compare, and judge the information and opinions you cite. In a word, you will need to THINK.

6. You will need to clear your research question with me. There are some questions which I will not accept, usually because I don't think they will meet one of the requirements outlined above, or because the question pertains to research topics that have been done so many times before (such as abortion, animal rights, gun control, etc.).

7. You may not change your topic without instructor’s permission. You may need to redo all of the library research assignments if you change your topic. No topic may be changed after the eighth week of the semester.
Important tips

• Read through the assignment and circle all the important components.
• If you don’t understand a piece of the assignment, ASK your professor.