

# Junior Research Paper

## Rationale:

- It's required of all of us.
- You need to practice doing academic research.
- It can be intellectually exciting to explore a topic of genuine inquiry.
- It provides the background for your Senior Project.

## Logistics:

- Length Requirement:
  - 4-6 pages for standard students
  - 5-7 pages for honors students
  - 6-8 pages for AP students
- Use at least 7 sources in your writing, including 2 peer-reviewed articles.
  - Honors and AP students must also include their book.
- Follow all APA formatting regulations.
- Documents will be turned in through Google Classroom.
- Process Documents:
  - **Bibliography** - list of all resources explored for this topic, formatted using APA specifications
  - **Idea Cards** - specific pieces of information organized for each topic
  - **Outline** - thesis and topic sentences
  - **Draft 1** - the best version of this paper that you can write without assistance
  - **Peer Feedback** - proofreading and revision advice from a trusted classmate
  - **Draft 2** - the best version of this paper after peer feedback
  - **Peer Feedback** - proofreading and revision advice from another trusted classmate
  - **Draft 3** - the best version of this paper after peer feedback
  - **Teacher Feedback** - proofreading and revision advice from teachers
- Final Documents:
  - **Title Page** - follow APA guidelines
  - **Final Draft** - the best version of this paper after peer and teacher feedback
  - **References** - list of resources actually used within paper

## Advice:

- **Stay on schedule.**
  - This is a ladder.
  - Every step you miss, you kick out a rung.
  - You might be able to get by for a few stages that way.
  - But eventually, the next rung is going to be too high for you to reach.
  - And then you will be miserable.
- Avoid plagiarism.
- When in doubt, ask a question.



Steps:

**1. Create a Research Paper folder in GDrive.**

- a. This process will create a lot of documents. Create a place for them.
- b. Name it: "Lastname, Firstname - Research Paper"

**2. Review the purpose and trajectory of a research paper.**

- a. Using an English handbook, read expert advice about how to write a research paper. These sources should help you think through the entire process and avoid the pitfalls of student research.
  - i. Pocket Style Manual - p. 90-105 (skip 27d) and p. 175-184
  - ii. [Purdue OWL](#)

**3. Select a subject.**

- a. Brainstorm some general subjects of interest to you on which you'd like to become an expert.
- b. Explore the current issues, controversies, and research being done in that field. (If experts aren't arguing about anything in the field, then how will you?)

**4. Get an overview of your subject.**

- a. Use the resources at your disposal to find what other people are saying about your topic.
- b. Start with 2 general sources about your topic.
- c. Then narrow your search to find the most current research and emerging information about the topic.

**5. Develop a research question.**

- a. What are the questions that experts are exploring in your field? This is the question that your paper will attempt to answer.
- b. Brainstorm several questions and let your teacher help you choose if you desire.

**6. Research your particular question.**

- a. Revisit the sources you read previously.
- b. Find new sources using strategic search phrases.
- c. You will need to find, read, and take notes additional sources
  - i. Standard - at least 2 additional sources, including 1 peer-reviewed article
  - ii. Honors/AP - at least 3 additional sources, including 2 peer-reviewed articles
- d. Put relevant and revealing information onto Digital Notecards.

**7. Create Bibliography.**

- a. Cite all of the sources according to the most recent APA specifications.
  - i. Standard - 4 sources, including 1 peer-reviewed journal article
  - ii. Honors/AP - 5 sources including 2 peer-reviewed journal articles and a book

**8. Depth of Complexity.**

- a. Consider the implications of your topic in the world at large. You will brainstorm several “complexities,” and choose one direction to explore in your paper.

**9. Develop a thesis statement.**

- a. Answer your research question. Address the complexity. Develop the claim that you will argue.

**10. Research for thesis.**

- a. Now that you know the particular direction your paper will go, identify additional sources that will help you develop a complete understanding of your topic and argument.
  - i. Standard - at least 3 additional sources, including 1 peer-reviewed article
    - 9 sources total
  - ii. Honors/AP - at least 4 additional sources, including 2 peer-reviewed articles
    - 12 sources total

**11. Brainstorm ideas for Senior Project.**

- a. This paper will lead to your Senior Project. Brainstorm a list of 10 products that you could create.

**12. Arrange Digital Notecards by main idea.**

- a. You need at least 8 possible main ideas.
- b. Consider the following categories for the information:
  - i. background/foundational knowledge
  - ii. current debates in the field
  - iii. counter-arguments
  - iv. solutions/conclusion
- c. Overall, incorporate at least 7 sources into these notes.

**13. Revise Bibliography.**

- a. Cite additional sources and integrate with existing Bibliography.
- b. Also correct any errors.

**14. Create in-text citations.**

- a. The citations must correspond with the information from the Bibliography.
- b. Format all the in-text citations so that you can plug them in when you use the evidence in your paper.

**15. Prepare a formal outline.**

- a. Revise and clarify thesis.
- b. Organize main ideas to support thesis. Formulate topic sentences that show the progression between these ideas.
- c. Choose most relevant evidence from idea cards. Briefly explain what that evidence proves.

**16. Write a draft.**

- a. This should be the best version of the paper that you can possibly write without feedback.

- b. Emphasize the argument of your paper in each paragraph of your writing.

**17. Self-Assessment.**

- a. There are some mistakes that you know you shouldn't make in your paper.
- b. Use the checklists and SAS Writing Reviser to help you eliminate these mistakes.

**18. Collect peer advice.**

- a. Classmates will evaluate your paper based on specific criteria.

**19. Revise.**

- a. After getting feedback from a classmate, revise your paper.
- b. This may require significant changes.

**20. Collect teacher advice.**

- a. Teachers will give you feedback on your third draft. Wait patiently for them to evaluate each paper.

**21. Revise paper.**

- a. Incorporate feedback from all critics.

**22. Publish.**

- a. Revise one final time and prepare your entire work to be submitted for review; include title page, final paper, works cited.

**23. Reverse Outline.**

- a. You need to include an outline of your paper in your Senior Project Portfolio.
- b. Your paper has likely changed since you outlined it, so you will reverse outline. This should be written in full sentences.