

Research Paper Overview

Before you begin your research, familiarize yourself with the requirements listed below to ensure you are progressing in the right direction.

All research papers must:

- be written in MLA format;
- be 1200 – 1500 words in length (does not include headings, title, or Works Cited page);
- incorporate information from four (4) credible sources. [Two of the four required must be vetted in the school databases; the other two sources will be accepted at the teacher’s discretion. Preferred credible resources will include extensions such as .edu, .org, .gov];
- be submitted for a grade in your English 12 class;
- be perfect in formatting of paper and Works Cited page to get credit for those elements.

Note: All sources must be properly credited (both in-text and on a Works Cited page) in order to receive credit. If your sources are not properly credited, it is considered plagiarism, and you will receive a score of “0”.

Evaluation for proficiency requires:

- 70% or better on the final draft
- Submission of all previous drafts with each evaluation (initial and any rewrites)
*Note: It is the **student’s** responsibility to hold onto previous drafts of their paper. Resubmissions without these drafts will not be evaluated.*
- In addition to being a senior graduation requirement, your paper will also receive a grade in your English class. English teachers will read and evaluate various stages of the paper as well as the final draft to determine a paper’s proficiency. Any papers *not submitted* by the required dates or *not deemed proficient*, will be subject to committee review.

Automatic Rejection:

Papers that do not meet the following minimum requirements are automatically rejected and will receive a score of zero in the student’s English class. Those papers will then be sent to an academic committee for evaluation.

1. Do not have the required number of sources (4).
2. Do not fall within the boundaries of the required word count (1200 - 1500).
3. Contain plagiarism -- whether it be intentional or accidental.

Papers scoring below the graduation requirement:

A paper that scores below 70% will also be sent to an academic committee. The graduation requirement is for a proficient paper. The paper will be revised by the student until it achieves the 70% requirement. This will not alter the initial grade the paper received in English 12.

For more specific information on how proficiency is determined, see Senior Research Paper Rubric and Senior Research Paper Score Guide.