

Name: _____ Period: _____

Fall Exploratory

Purpose: to allow students to learn about an area in Law and Justice they find of interest.

Method: A 1,500 word (approximately five pages) typed research paper. Alternative delivery must be coordinated with the teacher in advance.

Format: Times New Roman 12 font, double spaced, standard margins, and follow all guidelines established by the Centennial Language Arts Department (MLA format). A copy of the school standards is available in the media center.

Topics: Topics must be related to law and justice subject matter. They may be from things studied in the future courses. You may not do a biography. Some topics may require parent permission (serial killers, sex crimes). I suggest skimming through the textbook and see what catches your eye as interesting. You want a specific topic yet not so narrow that it is hard to get information.

Research: Magazines, newspapers, books, CD-ROMs, and even many internet sources are all acceptable. You must have at least six sources (like magazine articles, websites, etc.). You may only use one “reference source” as a cited source such as a dictionary, encyclopedia, or similar (including such websites). Sometimes major sources (books, journals) may count as more than one source depending upon content length but **MUST** be approved as such before the due date. These sources should be cited in your assessment. Plagiarism will result in a "0" grade – so when it doubt CITE it!

Internet Sources: Use of websites is cautiously approved for this project. Just because a website provides information on a topic – that does not mean it is accurate or even truthful. You must have me review your internet source if you plan to use one by emailing me the link (washburnt@fultonschools.org). You **MUST** include a copy of each website used and place these copies at the back of your submission after the bibliography. You **MUST** also print out my email approving the website for it to count.

Assessment: Let me stress - this is 10% of your grade - plan to spend some time preparing this. Do not throw something together at the last second or you will fail! You must turn in a bibliography listing your sources and you must cite your sources in your assessment.

Resources: a good website about writing a paper is found at the study guide website http://www.studyguide.org/research_paper_guide.htm Remember that this is a research paper that is a presentation on a topic not a thesis paper. The media center has information packets for research papers for sale.

Final Submission: Remember that your paper should look nice. It may be stapled, but it is recommended that you place it in a folder. Do **NOT** use a 3-ring binder. The order should be: 1) cover page, 2) rubric, 3) research paper, 4) bibliography, 5) printed copy of my email approving websites if websites are used, and 6) copy of any websites used.

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Timeline

Week	Action	Due Date	Check Off
1	Identify several possible topics and begin to look into each to determine best choice. List three possible topics: 1 - 2 - 3 -		
2	Final topic: _____ Instructors' Initial: _____		
	1 st source approved (print out approval if website)		
	2 nd source approved (print out approval if website)		
3	3 rd source approved (print out approval if website)		
	4 th source approved (print out approval if website)		
4	5 th source approved (print out approval if website)		
	6 th source approved (print out approval if website)		
5	Outline completed		
	Opening paragraph completed		
6	2 topic/body paragraphs written		
7	2 topic/body paragraphs written		
8	Remaining topic/body paragraphs written		
	Conclusion/summary paragraph written		
9	Bibliography compiled, citations checked		
	Final Editing, reread information from first page to make sure everything was included and done correctly		
10	Someone else edited (name): _____		
11	Combine materials in proper order (check Final Submission guidelines)		

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Scoring Rubric – be sure to place in submission packet

Elements	Maximum Points
FORMAT	50
Titling, page headers, page numbers	
Spacing and margins	
Sections in correct order	
Properly constructed works cited page	
Parenthetical documentation correct	
STRUCTURE	50
Brief overview of topic in introduction	
Interesting quotations or facts in introductory paragraph	
Topic sentences relate back to introductory paragraph	
Concluding paragraph summarized topic researched	
Correct spelling, grammar, mechanics and usage	
CONTENT	50
Not repetitive; fresh; interesting	
Paper presents topic in detail	
Introduction paragraph well written	
Supporting paragraphs well written	
Closing well written	
Requirements	100
1,500 words reached	
6 quality sources cited (websites must be approved)	
Student Score out of 250 points	
Numerical Grade	