

English II: Reminders for our Research Paper

Name

- Neither your title nor the words Works Cited should be underlined or in bold.
- Be sure that your paper is not a string of direct quotes; it won't flow well and it won't be accepted. Have a mix of your writing, quotes to support your ideas, paraphrasing when the direct could be better said using plain words, and summarizing when the original quote is too long. Only 10 to 15% of your paper can be a direct quote. I will require a word count for your paper and a word count for your direct quotes.
- Your thesis should not be too long. Make it specific and focused. Make it a statement instead of a question. It belongs at the end of your first paragraph.
- A research paper is not the place for cute. Don't use slang, don't ask silly questions, and don't use exclamation marks. Avoid the common words we have discussed in the past: thing, stuff, good, bad, special, very, nice, anything, something, get, got, gotten, do, did, done, etc...
- Use strong verbs, adjectives, adverbs, nouns, and other specific vocabulary. Wordiness and weak words make your paper less effective.
- Use a comma before the conjunction in a compound sentence. I see **many** run-on sentences.
- Be careful about putting in too much opinion and using judgmental words. (Stalin was evil, communism was bad, etc.)
- A research paper is the place for formal writing.
- Do not use first person or second person pronouns: I, me, my, myself, mine, us, our, we, you, your, yours, yourself, let's [let us], you're [you are]...
- For our second research paper: Parenthetical documentation is (author page number) or (title page number). (Jones 27) or ("Joseph Stalin" 2). You do not put web addresses or names of encyclopedias in parenthetical documentation.
- Plagiarizing will result in a zero.