## MLA Style Research Paper

- Task→You will choose controversial topic and complete a 2-3 page research paper in which you follow correct MLA type formatting. In this paper, you will address both sides of the issue and then you will determine which side you support and argue why that view is correct with valid research. In addition to a written paper, you will give a 3-5 minute oral presentation of your choice to the class.
  - **Requirements**  $\rightarrow$  This essay will:
    - Be 2-3 pages
      - Have *at least* three <u>credible</u> sources
        - \*\* Be careful with internet sites. Any "Joe Schmo" can put up a Ku Klux Klan page and call himself an expert.
      - 1 piece of correctly quoted info per paragraph <u>minimum (excluding the intro</u> and the conclusion)
        - Contain Signal Phrases for all quoted material
          - Example of a signal phrase: According to Kerey Nicholas in her article titled "The KKK in Colorado" she states, "..."
    - Will inform the reader of the following:
      - The background information necessary to understand why you consider your argument to be valid
      - Three reasons your audience should agree with your argument
    - Follow MLA formatting (use the Purdue website for help, www.purdue.edu)
      - Title your essay.
        - Center title two spaces above your text (the first page of your actual essay), no underline, no quotation marks, no bold. NO TITLE PAGES! Use same font and size as text. Be creative with the title.
      - In-text citation
      - Conclude with a works cited page
      - Typed (or in blue/black ink)
        - Double-spaced
        - Plain, 12 point font
    - Use academic language
      - NO  $1^{st}$  or  $2^{ND}$  person personal pronouns (I, you, me, my, your, our, we, us)
      - Avoid contractions (it's, there's, they're, etc.)
      - No slang

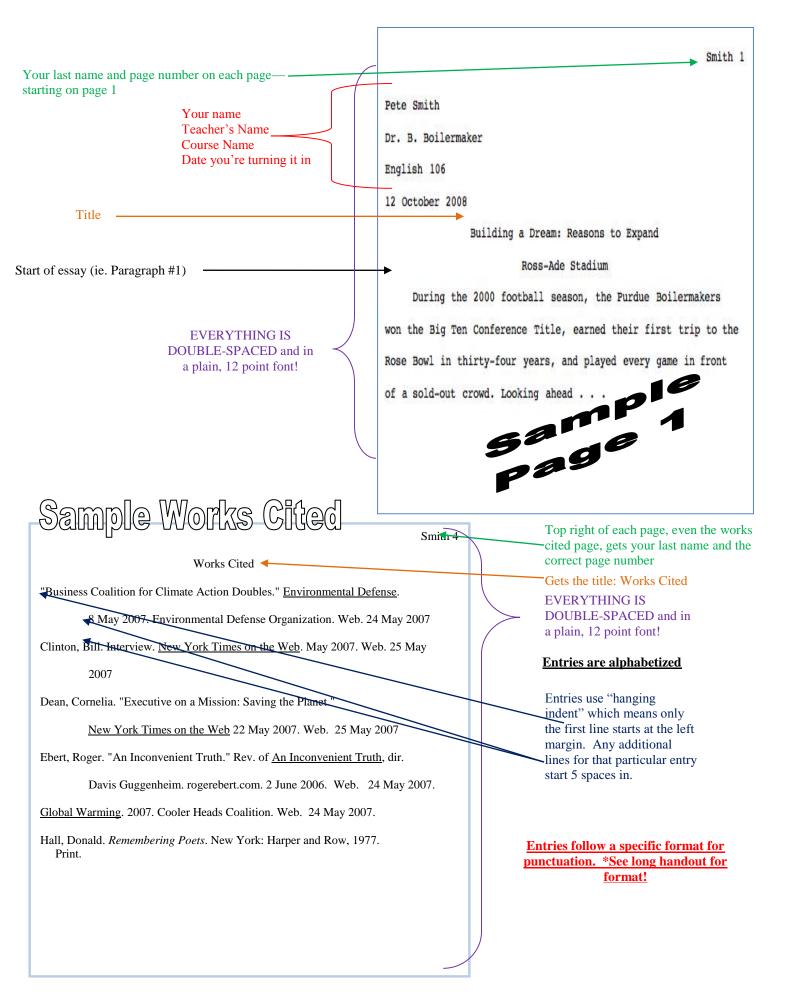
Due Date \_\_\_\_

## Possible essay topics to consider

- Climate change
- Preserving near extinct species
- The use of green energy (solar, wind, etc.) versus brown energy (natural gas, coal, etc.)
- Genetically modified foods
- Organic Farming
- State-mandated testing (TCAP, PARCC, etc.)
- Year-round schooling
- Art, music, and PE in schools
- Sex-education in schools
- Censorship
- Equal pay for women
- Are athletes being paid too much
- Steroids in sports
- Violence in video games
- Arranged marriage
- Appropriate ways parents punish their children
- Civilian drones
- Genetic testing
- Euthanasia/Physician-Assisted Suicide
- Organ donation
- Women in combat
- Gun control
- Gays in the military
- Immigration reform
- Campaign finance reform
- Mental health reform
- Mandatory background checks for weapons
- Title IX
- Concussion risk in sports
- Money for college athletes
- Mascot sensitivity

## Essay topics you may not use:

- Abortion
- Legalization of marijuana
- Later school start times
- Capital Punishment
- Animal testing
- Gay Marriage



Resources on this page are from : <u>The Purdue OWL</u>, 26 Aug. 2008. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue University. 23 April 2008 <a href="http://owl.english.purdue.edu">http://owl.english.purdue.edu</a>.