

## Core C - American Lit | Research Paper Guidelines

**Topic:** Choose a topic of interest to you from the time period studied in American Lit. & History this year. Keep in mind that your topic **MUST BE ARGUABLE**. This means that someone could disagree with your thesis!

For Example:

NOT: *Adultery can be found in Puritan Literature.*

—This is uninteresting and leaves no room for disagreement.

INSTEAD: *Societal leaders should not determine the social punishment of sin.*

—There is room for disagreement here, and there is plenty of evidence to support your argument. It is as relevant today as it was during early America.

### **Requirements:**

- The paper must be 1500-2200 words and follow MLA guidelines (see the OWL).
- A minimum of 6 sources must be used; 2 of those sources must be books. ALL sources must be scholarly (no blogs, Wikipedia, personal websites, etc.)
- Your paper should include a combination of direct quotes, paraphrases, and summaries. Any material that did not originate with you **MUST BE CITED**. The number of direct quotes, paraphrases, and summaries should not exceed thirty percent of your paper.

### **Paper Deadlines (tentative, subject to change):**

Q2, Week 4: Topic to thesis worksheet w/ working thesis due; 2 printed database sources

Q2, Week 5: RD Thesis

Q2, Week 6: 1st set of 20 notecards due + bib cards

Q2, Week 7: 2nd set of 20 notecards + bib cards & RD Works Cited; 2 body paragraph topic sentences & 1 refutation t.s.

Q2, Week 8: 3<sup>rd</sup> set of 20 notecards + bib cards

\*\*Christmas Break – work on RP outline

Q3, Week 1: Body paragraph outline due w/ final thesis and final Works Cited

Q3, Week 3: First 3 pages & introduction due

Q3, Week 4: Refutation & conclusion due

\*Q3, Week 5: Parent proofread will take place this week! Signed checklist will be due w/final paper

Q3, Week 6: Final Research Paper due

**Late Penalties: Each missed deadline will earn a twenty percent point deduction.**

**Final Paper:** Final drafts must be submitted in a pocket folder. On the left side, you will include all of your graded drafts. Including: note cards (arranged in order of quote appearance in the paper), graded outline, graded first 3 pages, and graded intro/conclusion/refutation. On the right side, you will include your final draft, parent checklist, and rubric.