**RESEARCH PAPER: CP WORLD HISTORY  
“To what extent is …?”**

“Ms. Pool, what do I have to do?”

For your sophomore year, 1600-1800 word research paper, you will coming up with your own version of the above prompt. You will choose whatever topic you would like, from 8000BCE - 2000CE, to further examine for this research paper. Your topic should be somewhat specific, and I will check your topic before you actually begin research so that you have a narrow enough focus.

Options:

“to what extent is \_\_\_\_ a (PIECES) turning point?”

“to what extent was \_\_\_\_ a success?”

“to what extent did \_\_\_\_ cause \_\_\_\_?”

In summary, choose a research prompt that examines and evaluates the *effects* of a specific occurrence/event.

“Ms. Pool why are we doing this?”

The goal of this paper is to conduct research. You should not be able to accurately answer your question until you have spent time researching the answer. You may have an idea, but you won’t know how to back up that claim with evidence until you research it. You may originally go into this paper thinking that whatever you chose was not a significant turning point in world history, but after you researched, you may realize it was a huge turning point! That’s okay! You can always change your thesis statement. ☺

“Ms. Pool, what’s an analytical essay?”

This essay is analytical, which means that you need to tell me *why* it was a turning point, and *how* it changed the course of world history. Do not just sum up what the event was. That will result in a failing grade.

“Ms. Pool, this seems hard.”

Have no fear! Use the packet to help organize your thoughts and writing. I’ve broken it up into what to do in five easy steps. Follow this outline to achieve maximum success.

“Ms. Pool, how long do I have to write this?”

**Due: February 14th, at the beginning of class, with a hardcopy already printed out. You must also have your paper turned in to turnitin.com by 8:20am on the 14th.**

“Mrs. Pool, I cannot do this! It’s so hard!!”

Breathe. You can do this! We’ve worked on short answers all year long. Make an argument. Support it with evidence. Explain that evidence. What’s evidence? Things you’re researching! And, based on all of that evidence that you’ve collected, you’re going to draw a conclusion. If the evidence says that trench warfare was a turning point in history, I’m going to argue that it was, and I’m going to use that evidence to support my argument.

**Also: you can do this! I believe in you!**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **RESEARCH PAPER CALENDAR** | | | | |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| **20** | **21** | **22** | **23**  *LIBRARY – Lab A* | **24**  *LIBRARY – West Wing*  **Due: topic chosen** |
| **27**  *LIBRARY – Lab A* | **28**  *LIBRARY – Lab A* | **29**  *LIBRARY – Lab A* | **30**  *CLASSROOM*  **Due: thesis statement (can be a hypothesis!)** | **31**  *CLASSROOM* |
| **3**  *Independent work🡪* | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** |
| **10**  *LIBRARY – Lab A*  *HW: print out your paper and bring it to class tomorrow!* | **11**  Peer edit paper in class  **Due: hardcopy of paper (I will check that you printed out your paper at the beginning of class)** | **12** | **13** | **14**  ***DUE: RESEARCH PAPER*** |

**DUE DATES FOR GRADES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Friday,  January 24 | Topic must be selected – Ms. Pool will check **FOR A GRADE** |
| Thursday,  January 30 | Thesis statement written (this should just be a hypothesis! This can change based on your research) - Ms. Pool will check **FOR A GRADE** |
| Tuesday,  February 11 | **HARDCOPY PRINTED OUT** |
| Friday,  February 14 | **RESEARCH PAPER DUE**  *Double check! Do you have a cover page with you name and your “to what extent” question? Do you have your pages numbered? Did you write five full pages (for it to be five FULL pages, you need to have some writing on page 7)? Do you have a works cited page? Is it in MLA format? Did you read your paper to check for any grammatical errors? Is it turned in to turnitin.com?* |

Your research paper is due Friday, February 14th. You must both submit it to turnitin.com AND bring a printed out hard copy to class. In accordance with the Cherry Creek High School policy, if you are absent from school, your paper is still DUE on this day (by submitting to turnitin.com). If it is not turned in on time, it will be considered **LATE**. You will receive 10 points off the paper per day it is late.

**RESEARCH PAPER FORMAT**

**FINAL CHECKLIST!**

* Cover Page
  + ID\*, date, class period in the top left corner
  + “To what extent” research prompt typed and centered
  + Word count centered below the prompt
* Essay
  + Well-written, analytical essay, including an introduction, thesis statement, and body paragraphs with topic sentences
  + 1600-1800 words, double spaced (***excluding*** your cover page and works cited page)
  + Either 11 point Arial OR 12 point Times New Roman (no BOLD lettering)
  + 1 inch margins (this is the “normal” setting—do not adjust)
  + Left justified
  + Check for proper capitalization
  + Hit spell check. Proofread your paper. Have someone else also read it and make corrections.
  + Citations—are required for ALL INFORMATION that would not be considered common knowledge.
    - Example: Julius Caesar was assassinated. —no citation
    - On March 15, 44 BCE, Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of Roman Senators for fear of his growing power. The conspirators stabbed him 23 times while in the midst of the Roman Senate (Whiting 40).
      * Parenthetical citations = (Last name page number). Ex: (Smith 249).
      * Period is after the citation, outside of the parentheses
* Works Cited Page
  + Eliminate ALL HYPERLINKS for digital sources!
  + Alphabetical order
  + Hanging indent
* Essay DON’TS:
  + Never start the essay with a quote! It needs historical context.
  + Don’t ask the reader questions, even rhetorical ones! This is for the entire paper.
  + Don't quote very often! It just makes it look like you are filling in space. Instead, paraphrase and cite. ONLY 4-5 quotes TOTAL in your paper.
  + No quote over two lines.

**POSSIBLE TOPICS:**

Brainstorm!

* What subject, era of history, or region of the world are you interested in?
* What theme(s) interests you the most?

*\*Note – while it is acceptable to analyze the extent to which a certain leader impacted history, it will also be easy to accidentally turn that essay into a biography, which is NOT what this essay is about. Writing a biography about a historical figure will result in a failing grade for this research paper.*

Ideas to get the gears turning:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| POLITICAL STRUCTURES | INNOVATION AND TECH | ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTIONS | CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS | ECONOMIC STRUCTURES | SOCIAL STRUCTURES |
| * Legal codes * Effects of empires * Revolutionary movements * Labor systems * Nation-states * Nation and empire building * Weaponry development * Greco-Persian War * Peloponnesian War * Punic Wars * Warring States Period (China) * Hundred Years’ War * Thirty Years’ War * Napoleonic Wars * Haitian revolution * French Revolution * Mexican Revolution * South American Revolutions * Spanish American War * Opium Wars * Russian Revolution * Taiping Rebellion * Boxer Rebellion * Sepoy Rebellion | * Medical innovations (pick one!) * Scientific innovations (pick one!) * Gunpowder * Movable type * Printing press * Astrolabe * Industrialization | * Silk Road * Indian Ocean Trade * Trans-Saharan Trade * Little Ice Age * Railroads * Bubonic Plague * Green Revolution * Effects of the Industrial Revolution * Columbian Exchange * Imperialism | * Judaism * Buddhism * Christianity * Islam * Confucianism * Protestant Reformation * Social Darwinism * Imperialism * Axial Age * Enlightenment * Nationalism * Renaissance * Industrial Revolution * Scientific Revolution * Protestant Reformation | * Columbian Exchange * Capitalism * Communism * Socialism * Imperialism * Slavery * Labor systems * Mit’a * Serfdom * Mercantilism | * Gender hierarchies * Suffrage * Caste system * Enlightenment ideas * Social Darwinism * Castas system * Scientific racism * Slavery and slave trade * Birth control * Anticolonial movements |

**Topics are first come, first-served. You cannot have the same topic as a peer in your class. Whenever you have narrowed your topic, talk to me so that I can write it down!**

**CHEAT SHEET: THINGS YOU MUST INCLUDE**

Directions: use this page to help organize yourself as you complete your research paper. All due dates are included, as is a final checklist of what needs to be turned in.

*Have you completed the following before submitting your paper?*

\_\_\_ Do you have a cover page with research question, your name, and period number?

\_\_\_ Is your paper 1600-1800 words, typed, either 12-point Times New Roman or 11-point Arial font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins?

*\*note: word count DOES NOT INCLUDE works cited page or cover page. Highlight your essay excluding those things, and select word count. Please don’t try to include your works cited page in your word count – I will be able to tell, and* ***I will take 10 points off*** *of your final grade.*

\_\_\_ Did you use parenthetical citations throughout the paper?

\_\_\_ Did you read over the paper before submitting it? Did you hit spell check? Are all grammar and spelling mistakes corrected?

\_\_\_ Do you have a completed works cited page? With proper format? With at minimum five sources?

\_\_\_ Is your paper stapled together?

\_\_\_ Did you submit your paper to turnitin.com?

\_\_\_ Did you print out a hardcopy to turn in to Ms. Pool? Did you do this before class started?

\_\_\_ Is the rubric attached to your final paper?

One more time. Read over your essay out loud. Does it have the following?

* An introduction that includes your analytical thesis
* **One central argument** – that it was or was not a turning point in world history
* Body paragraphs with topic sentences
  + What life was like in the world before the event?
  + What was the event itself?
  + Did you examine whether or not that event was a significant turning point – how it changed society?
* Evidence that supports your argument throughout
* Analysis of the evidence to prove your argument
* Parenthetical citations throughout

Other tips for a well-written and well-structured paper:

* number your pages!
* Quotes should be embedded (see how to embed on the body paragraph section)
* No contractions (no can’t don’t won’t)
* No first person – no I, we, us, me
* Formal writing only

Plagiarism:

A note about plagiarism: don’t do it. Plagiarism is the act of taking the words, ideas, or research of another person and using them as if they were your own, without any citations. It is intellectual theft and a clear violation of the code of ethics and behavior expected of you at Cherry Creek (see page 55 in Bear Facts).

The easiest way to avoid plagiarism is to cite your sources any time you use an idea or quote that is not your own. If you didn’t know it before you started writing your paper, you should cite it. If you did know it, it’s probably common knowledge, and you do not need to cite it.

If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive a zero on your paper, your parents will be notified, and the head of the Social Studies Department will be notified. Do not use paper or portions of a paper that you have already submitted to another class as a substitute for this paper. If you do this, or plagiarize, you will automatically be given a 0 for your paper.

Turnitin.com and quoting documents:

If you receive over 15% flagged on turnitin.com, you have quoted (or plagiarized) too much. You will be able to submit the essay to turnitin.com multiple times, and I will set it up so that you will know what percentage of the paper has been flagged by turnitin.  
  
If it is 15%-25% plagiarized, you will receive 10 points off your essay.

If it is 25%-35% plagiarized, you will receive 20 points off your essay.

If it is 35%-45% plagiarized, you will receive 30 points off your essay.

If it is 45%-55% plagiarized, you will receive 40 points off your essay.

If it is 55% or more plagiarized, you will receive 50 points off your essay.

Again, your final paper is due **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14th.**

Each day your paper is late, 10 points will be deducted. This final paper is worth ***TWO*** test grades.

**RESEARCH PAPER: STEP BY STEP**

**(NEED HELP? THERE’S AN OUTLINE ON MY WEBSITE – DOWNLOAD IT AND USE THAT!)**

**STEP 1: CREATE YOUR PROMPT!**

Step 1: pick a topic you liked learning about this year. Brainstorm below.

Step 2: how can you narrow that topic? What do you want your specific focus to be? Brainstorm below. Do you want to look at a specific PIECES theme? Instead of saying “World War II,” can you choose a specific battle?

Step 3: write your prompt below! You MUST check with Ms. Pool before moving on from this step. She will check your topic on **FRIDAY, January 24th.**

**STEP 2: RESEARCH**

*Based on your prompt that you created, let’s research! This is how the essay should be broken down: you need a section over what things were like before your event, a section over your event itself, and the largest section should be an analysis of HOW and WHY. Use my Tunisian Revolution essay as an example essay. For my instructions here, I will give you a separate example: “to what extent was the development of trench warfare a military turning point in world history?” After my introduction and thesis, I would write about what warfare was like before World War I. Then, I would discuss what trench warfare was and why it developed. Then, the bulk of my essay would examine effects of trench warfare in relation to military tactics. Did it cause a lot of changes? If so, my continued argument would be that trench warfare was a SIGNIFICANT TURNING POINT in warfare history.*

**Step 1: What were things like before the event?**  
You can go pretty far back here, but talk about how things are leading up to your event. Following my example, I would talk about the history of warfare in the world – weapons, tactics, and strategies used prior to World War I. This should be about one page long.

**Step 2: The event itself.**  
What was it? Examine the event itself. This should be about one to one and a half pages long.

**Step 3: evaluate the extent to which the event was a turning point.**

Start by talking about what changed (if anything) as a result of your event! This should make up the largest chunk of your paper. This is your true argument – that it was or was not a turning point! I would use a couple of pages to argue that the development of trench warfare was a significant turning point to a major extent, because it revolutionized how war was fought, and facilitated the creation of modern and high tech weapons.

**STEP 3: WRITING!**

*Complete one paragraph at a time. Below are two helpful ways to organize your writing in your analytical paragraphs. If you struggle with organization, try one of them. You don’t have to use them – they’re optional – but it will help keep you focused.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PEEL | CER |
| **P**oint. **E**vidence. **E**xplain. **L**ink back to thesis.  Make your **point** (trench warfare was not a turning point/was a turning point to a minor/moderate/major extent). Your **evidence** will be concrete evidence from your research. Then, **explain** your evidence and how it relates to your argument. Finally, **link** your evidence and your point back to your original thesis. | **C**laim. **E**vidence. **R**easoning.  Answer the prompt with a specific **claim** (trench warfare was a major technological turning point in warfare history). Provide specific **evidence** (this can be concrete evidence from your research). Then, explain the reasoning – why/how does that evidence support your claim that it was a technological turning point? How does that evidence support your thesis? |

Because we’ve already brainstormed these above, I’m going to give you a basic breakdown of what your essay should look like. There is an outline that I have posted on my website that you can copy!

* Intro and thesis (instructions for that are on the next page)
* Approximately one or so pages about what the world was like before the event
  + What was the world like before your chosen event?
  + Evidence to support
* Approximately one and a half pages of the event itself
  + Explain what it was!
  + Evidence to support
* Remaining pages should be analysis
  + To what extent was it a turning point in world history?
  + How did it change things? What did it change?
  + Why?
  + You should be making your OWN arguments here – not relying on others’ thoughts.

**Citing sources and embedding quotes**

It’s imperative that you cite your sources and embed quotes properly. If you need help, please talk to me! You must have a works cited page with parenthetical citations throughout. You are only allowed five total quotes in your essay – work on paraphrasing, rather than directly quoting.

Do not do:

“It’s imperative that you cite your sources and embed quotes properly… You must have a works cited page with parenthetical citations throughout. This is an entire sentence that you’re quoting. You need to break it up and put your own words in the sentences you’re embedding. This is wrong. This is far too long. Don’t do this please” (Pool).

Better!

This essay must include “sources and embed[ed] quotes,” both of which support an argument (Pool).

Best!

This essay must include paraphrased, researched evidence that supports an argument (Pool).

**(Need help? There’s an outline on my website – download it and use that!)**

**STEP 4: INTRO PARAGRAPH AND THESIS STATEMENT**

*Overview: Write your intro paragraph and thesis statement. Your intro to your paper should set up the theme you’re addressing in your essay (in my case, I would spend a few sentences addressing warfare). You will write a thesis statement that answers the prompt that you created.*

Step 1: Introduction

This part is easy. I like to consider this the “previously on…” of your essay. Before we could binge shows on Netflix, we had to wait around for a whole week for a new episode to come out. When I’m watching Grey’s Anatomy, I love the “previously on…” introduction. Why? Because Grey’s Anatomy is 15 seasons long and sometimes they bring up characters that I have not seen for eight seasons. Addressing them in that first 30 second clip helps trigger my memory of that character and usually tells me just what I need to know about that person before he or she shows up on the screen. That’s what you need to think of for a historical introduction. What’s happening in the world that’s relevant to your prompt? Set up the context of your essay, so that, as soon as you get into your thesis and body paragraphs, the reader knows what’s going on.

Your introduction can be as long as you want, but I recommend three to four sentences. In your introduction, you should introduce your theme whatever background information you deem necessary for the reader to understand the context of the rest of your essay. Write your introduction below (or, use the space below to brainstorm).

Step 2: Thesis statement

It should be analytical (aka – you need to have a ‘because’ statement in there) and should directly answer the prompt. I use a thesis statement formula that I think is great: *Although X*, **Y,** because A and B where *X* is a counterargument, **Y** is your actual argument, and A and B are evidence to support your actual argument. Let me give you an example: To what extent is Creek the best school*? Although Creek is gigantic and people can get lost in the masses*, **Creek is a great school**, because it fosters a creative and competitive learning environment, has a wide variety of course offerings, and has excellent sports and fine arts programs. Use the space below to brainstorm and write out your thesis statement.

**STEP 5: WORKS CITED PAGE:**Use EasyBib or NoodleTools to make your works cited page for you. Make sure that you are keeping track of all of your sources as you write your essay.