English 9 – Research Paper

Write a formal essay in which you present information from 3-5 credible sources on a topic of your choice.

Format:

**Opening Paragraph** – starts with a hook that introduces your topic with an anecdote, personal story (only time in the paper that you may use first person), or surprising statistic. Move from your hook to your claim, which should be the final sentence of your opening paragraph. Your claim should state your topic and what it is that you have to say about this topic; in other words, your claim is your ANSWER to the QUESTION(S) that inspired this project.

**Body Paragraphs** – introduce and summarize information in a logical order.

* Make sure that each paragraph has a clear purpose.
* Body paragraphs should include direct quotations when they add to the meaning or impact of your paper. You must include at least two properly introduced and cited direct quotations in your paper. Many of your will include far more than that.
* Cite information as well as quotations.
* Use your opening and closing sentences to introduce topics, transition to a new topic, and / or make connections between information and your claim.

**Closing Paragraph –** summarizes information, restates the claim, and ends with a universal statement that identifies and discusses the importance of your topic.

Due dates:

Outline with claim: end of class on Friday, April 3

Draft of opening paragraph with heading: end of class on Monday, April 6

Draft of complete paper with works cited page: Tuesday, April 14

Final paper: Friday, May 1

Length, Sources, and Grades:

Eligible for an A: 5 pages with 5 sources

Eligible for a B: 4 pages with 4 sources

Eligible for a C: 3 pages with 3 sources

What should your research paper look like?

1) Proper heading, title, and running header (upper right corner with last name and page number – leave off of page one)

2) Double-spaced, size 12 font (Times New Roman). Your paper should be 3 to 5 pages long, excluding the works cited page(s).

3) Introduction – ¾ to 1 page long. Start with a hook. This is the only section of your paper that may be written in first person. Lead the reader gently from the hook to your claim statement.

4) Body – 2 to 3 pages long. The body of your paper should be divided into three to five major sections. Major sections should be subdivided into additional sections. Pay special attention to creating clear and logical transitions between sections. All of your evidence should be directly relevant to your claim.

5) Conclusion – ¾ to 1 page long. Summarize the main ideas of your paper. Return to your guiding questions. Discuss next steps and additional questions raised by this inquiry. End with a solid section that addresses the question, “Who cares?” Why is this topic interesting, important, or relevant? We will practice doing this in class.

6) All information will be cited using MLA-style PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS after a direct quotation, a paraphrased idea, a fact, or a statistic that is not common knowledge (see handout on parenthetical citations). You must cite any idea – directly quoted or paraphrased -- that you did not think up on your own.

7) You must use three to five sources. While some sources will obviously be more useful than others, overreliance on one source is discouraged and will negatively impact your grade.

8) A perfect, alphabetized MLA-style WORKS CITED page at the end of the essay. Everything cited in the essay must be listed on the WC page. Everything listed on the WC page must be cited somewhere in the essay.

9) Refer to sample MLA style research papers for formatting guidance. Sample essays are available in the classroom and are also readily available online. You do not need to use a title page. You do not need to use headings within your paper. If you want to use headings within your paper, you must check in with me about formatting them correctly.

<http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/library/mla.pdf>

<http://www.dianahacker.com/pdfs/hacker-daly-mla.pdf>

<http://dianahacker.com/pdfs/hacker-levi-mla.pdf>

<http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_s1-0014.html>

**Parenthetical Citations – Citing Information within the Essay**

1. CITING PARAPHRASED INFORMATION (one author):

Advertisements, particularly ones featuring women, commodify bodies, thereby turning them into objects or products to be consumed (Hasty 162).

2. CITING PARAPHRASED INFORMATION with AUTHOR

Hasty argues in his study that advertisements commodify bodies and turn them into objects or products to be consumed (162).

3. DIRECT QUOTATION (always mention the author in your text!)

Jack Hasty, a professor of sociology at Johns Hopkins University, argues, “Women and their bodies are constantly being turned into marketable and consumerable objects in advertising” (162).

4. CITING SOURCES WITH MORE THAN ONE AUTHOR:

Advertisements, particularly ones featuring women, commodify bodies, thereby turning them into objects or products to be consumed (Hasty and Levy 162).

5. CITING SOURCES by ONE AUTHOR WHO HAS WRITTEN TWO OR MORE SOURCES:

Advertisements, particularly ones featuring women, commodify bodies, thereby turning them into objects or products to be consumed (Hasty, “Commodification” 162).

note: “Commodification” is the first alphabetizable word in the full title of the source. For example, the full title is “The Commodification of Women in Modern Advertisements.”

Hasty’s other source would be listed this way:

…another example of a deplorable advertising practice (Hasty, Women 17).

6. CITING SOURCES WITHOUT AUTHORS:

Advertisements, particularly ones featuring women, commodify bodies, thereby turning them into objects or products to be consumed (“Commodification” 162).

7. CITING SOURCES with NO PAGE NUMBERS

Advertisements, particularly ones featuring women, commodify bodies, thereby turning them into objects or products to be consumed (“Commodification”).