

How To Write The AP Research Paper For Mrs. Krieger

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The AP Research Project

How is this project like the AP prompts that we write in class?

It might be helpful to think of this research project in terms of the prompts that we write in class. For the argument prompts, you are asked to defend or refute a claim in 40 minutes or less. You take a stand, and then you back it up with information that is stored in your big brain. That is essentially what I am asking you to do with this project. The difference, of course, is that you have time to conduct additional research to better determine and bolster your claim.

The process:

1. Start with a question.

Ex. Should UEHS keep class rankings?

Ex. How do teaching styles affect student success?

Ex. Should UE keep sports programs?

2. Mine for data.

Dig. Dig. Dig. Check books. Check databases. Read news articles. Conduct surveys and interviews. Talk to Mrs. Naslund if you need help. She is an expert searcher.

3. Analyze and organize the data.

After you have oodles and oodles of data, you must read it and make judgments as to whether or not a particular item is pertinent to your research. Read your articles. Mark your articles with pens and highlighters. Make notes in the margins. Flag passages that are particularly helpful. Organize data into cogent units. For instance, you might create categories: historical information, anecdotes, and other clustered bits of information.

4. Develop your thesis statement.

The thesis statement should clearly answer your question and establish your argument.

Ex. Despite the tradition of meritocracy that dates back to the 1800's, the practice of ranking students according to academic accomplishments has outlived its usefulness and should be abolished at UEHS.

Ex. Class rankings create an atmosphere of cutthroat competition that is ultimately detrimental to students' psychological health and the practice should therefore be abolished.

Ex. Because competition to gain entry into the best colleges and to obtain the best jobs has increased drastically over the last decade, a class ranking system that rewards hard work and competition is crucial to our students' long-term success and should be maintained as is.

5. This is where the road divides. In the olden days, students were always required to develop an extensive Roman numeral outline. I have come to find over time that this path works for some students, but not for others. Therefore, you have two choices at the point. Choice 5A is to complete an outline. Choice 5B is to complete a zero draft.

5A. The traditional roman numeral outline helps you to organize your thoughts and your evidence.

Example for the third class ranking thesis

I. Introduction

A. Global Competition Anecdote

1. Thunderstruck
2. The World is Flat
3. U.S. is no longer geographically superior

B. Thesis Statement

1. Colleges
2. Workplace

II. The Nature of Competition and Natural Selection

A. Darwin's "Survival of the Fittest"

1. Strong adapt or perish
2. Scientific imperative
 - a. Individual
 - b. Community

B. Innovation

1. Going outside the box
2. Albert Einstein
3. Mark Zuckerberg

C. Emerson's "Genius of the Individual"

1. Rise to the top
2. Places in the world

III. What a Valedictorian Looks Like

A. Historical background

1. What is a valedictorian?
2. Class rankings in U.S.
3. Global rankings

B. Typical valedictorians

1. Data
2. Top 10's

C. Workload

1. Schedule
2. Other activities
3. Types of classes

IV. Advantages

V. Disadvantages

VI. Conclusion

5B. The Zero Draft. Set aside 45-60 minutes and write in support of your thesis. Pretend that this is an in class prompt situation. Don't look up or cite information; just write.

6. Write. At this point, you will take either your zero draft or your outline and morph it into a final, or almost final, draft. If you completed an outline, then you will write according to the order that you have established. If you completed the zero draft, you will now expand, re-organize, and polish your writing. **In both cases, you will also need to insert your citations.**

7. Create your reference page. See guidelines.

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Specific paper requirements:

Font and spacing

- Double-spaced
- 12 point font
- Times New Roman
- Standard margins
- 6 to 8 pages plus References and any tables

Title page

- Running header
- Title page should include: title, name, school

Style

- APA

Voice

- Active Voice
- Tell me what you know!

Directions for handing in research paper

You will hand in your final draft along with any outlines, zero drafts, and notes. You will also hand in evidence of your research. This can include pages from the articles that you used, copies of book pages, printouts, or other evidence.

Hand in order:

1. Final draft should be on top, stapled in the upper left corner.
2. Drafts and/or outlines come next.
3. Notes.
4. Printouts and copies.