

Contemporary World Issues Research Paper

Objective:

- To investigate a topic of interest to YOU in the world today
- To research the internet using reliable websites
- To present a speech about your topic

Elements of the Paper:

• **Introduction**

- Introduce **WHY** you choose this topic & **WHAT INTERESTS** you about the topic
- Explain **WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW** about the topic and/ or what you are already familiar with.
- **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** This is where you ask a specific question about your topic that you are going to answer (using research) throughout the paper.
- This section should be written in the personal voice (using "I")
- *1/2 of a page in length*

• **Background**

- Explain the recent history of your topic and the major issues of the location, time period, major characters, etc.
- **CONNECT** your topic with what you have already learned
- *3/4 of a page in length*

• **Content**

- **ANSWER YOUR ESSENTIAL QUESTION** using research
- Categorize your research into **ARGUMENTS and EVIDENCE** and then add **CONTEXT and ANALYSIS**
 - Argument= A statement, claim or idea that answers your Essential Question
 - Context= Links your argument to your evidence.
 - Evidence= Provides proof that your argument is true. Evidence could be a statistic, quote from an expert, first-hand account, or other compelling evidence.
 - Analysis= Explain how your argument proves your argument.
- *1 1/2 to 2 pages in length*

• **Reflection**

- Describe **WHAT FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR TOPIC**
- **SUMMARIZE** what were the key points that you will remember from researching this paper
- This should also be in the personal voice (using "I")
- *1/4 to 1/3 of a page in length*

• **Works Cited**

- Alphabetical list of sources by author or title (if there is no author)
- This is a separate page

Links to Further Information & Sample Topics:

Go to www.fhs.fushsd.org → Academics → Class Websites → Ms. Nethers

Popular Topics Include:

- AIDs in Africa
- U.S./ Mexico Boarder Disputes
- Nuclear weapons
- Fidel Castro & rule in Cuba
- Global Warming
- Genocide in Darfur
- North Korea and Nuclear Weapons
- European Union
- Terrorism
- China and globalization
- International spread of technology/ Internet
- Human Right/ Human Right Abuses
- Forced Prostitution
- Outsourcing
- Obesity & Globalization
- Women's rights
- Recent Issues in Latin America

Format:

- 12 point font
- 1 inch margins
- Double-spaced
- Minimum of 3 pages/ Maximum of 5 pages (not including the Works Cited)

Notecards:

- Front: Write Background or Content on the TOP
Write the full source in MLA source
- Back: Information you will use in quotes (written exactly) or paraphrase (where you summarize the author's words)

Speeches:

After you turn in your paper, you will be assigned a time to give a speech based on your paper. Speeches will be 3-5 minutes in length. If you turn in the paper early, you will get extra credit on the speech.

- **Introduction:**
 - Hook audience by providing an interesting statistic, using a provocative question, sharing a great quote, explaining a metaphor, or relating to the audience.
 - Explain why you choose this topic & what your **ESSENTIAL QUESTION** is.
- **Background**
 - Explain background of your topic and WHERE you found your information.
- **Content**
 - Explain the arguments and evidence that you found to answer your question.
 - Sample: In a May 2005 article titled "AIDs Epidemic Growing" from the New York Times proved that the rate of AIDs is growing tremendously in Africa.
- **Conclusion**
 - Wrap up your speech and leave your audience interested in the topic. You could ask a provocative question about the future of your topic, end with a great quote, call people to action, and/or connect back to your introduction.
- **Questions from the Audience**
 - At least THREE questions will be asked by your peers . . . so be prepared!