

Research Paper Guidelines

9th Grade Literature

Mrs. Peden

TOPIC INSTRUCTIONS: Who is responsible for the double suicide of Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet in William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*? Is it Friar Laurence, Mercutio, Fate, Capulet and/or Montague? It is your job to select the responsible party and write a well-researched and convincing argument about your topic. All papers should have **at least 3 sources, both primary and secondary**. Your sources should be articles, books, websites, etc., that provide useful historical background and information about your topic.

PRODUCT: In your research paper, you should develop a clear **thesis statement** about your topic that will be the focus for your entire essay. In addition, you should use **quotes as support** from both your primary and secondary sources. Each of your paragraphs should be structured appropriately according to **T.E.A.L.:** Topic sentence, Evidence, Analysis, Link sentence. In order to satisfy the Evidence portion, you must have **at least 1 quote from a primary or secondary source in each of the body paragraphs**. In your conclusion, you must address the **greater significance** of your topic—what is the “so what?” of your research paper.

LENGTH AND FORMAT: This assignment should be structured as a formal, research paper and **2 to 3 pages in length**. It must be typed, double-spaced, and in 12-point Times New Roman font (**in accordance with MLA standards**). You must also include MLA in-text citations for primary and secondary sources, and a formal **Works Cited** page with **all 3 sources** listed properly.

DUE DATE: *Friday, March 18, 2016 at midnight.* You must submit an electronic copy of your paper via Google Docs. Ten points will be deducted from the final grade for every day that your paper is turned in late. Don't forget to have a backup for your paper; deletion, computer viruses, etc., will not be acceptable excuses for late submission. **THIS RESEARCH PAPER WILL COUNT FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO TEST GRADES.**

FROM THE STUDENT HANDBOOK:

Academic Honesty: Coursework submitted by a student must be the student's own, and original work. Students shall not cheat on any assignment by giving or receiving unauthorized assistance, or commit the act of plagiarism. Students who commit such acts are subject to receiving a grade of zero (0) on the assignment as well as disciplinary action.

REMINDER:

ALL PAPERS WILL BE EXAMINED USING A PLAGIARISM PROGRAM. ANY INSTANCE OF FOUR WORDS OR MORE PLAGIARIZED WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC ZERO, AND A REFERRAL.