**Research Paper World History**

**Task**: To research a topic in world history that appeals to you. It can be on any topic we have covered this year from the rise of democracy in ancient Greece to the fall of communism in the 1990s and issues pertinent to the world today. This paper must present an original point of view on the topic and show in-depth analysis of that topic. This is not a report or a summary of facts, but an **argument of the significance of those facts**.

**Requirements**:

* 4-6 pages
* MLA format and appropriate citations
  + Information that is considered common knowledge does NOT need to be cited.
  + Any quotes or statistics must be cited.
  + See the school handbook on plagiarism guidelines.
* Works Cited page
  + The rule of thumb is one source per written page. Thus, you must have at least 3 sources. One of these sources must be a book or the textbook. Also, try to use a primary source (firsthand account).
* Turned into turnitin.com and printed.

**Due Dates and Other Important Dates** (Note: much of this work will be done outside of class).

* *Research day* T/W! Research topic and begin to take notes.
* Research Topic **DUE**: Th/Fri, 4/12-13
* *Research Day*:
* Research notes:
  + 1 Source **DUE**:
  + 2 Sources **DUE**:
* Thesis and outline **DUE**:
* Rough Draft **DUE**:
* Final Draft **DUE**:

\*\*Any assignment prior to the final draft can be turned in for half credit. The final draft can be turned in up to 3 days late but will be marked down 10% per day. \*\*

**This project will make up approximately 10-15% of your spring semester grade.**

**Topic Options**

***World War Two:***

* Analyze the significance of any major battle: D-Day, Battle of Britain, Stalingrad, Leningrad, Battle of France, etc.
* Analyze the significance of a military leader: Churchill, Roosevelt, Patton, Eisenhower, etc.
* Analyze the impact of WW2 on the home front. (Must stick to European home front, not US).
* How did WW2 impact women? (Must stick to changes for women in Europe, not US).
* Should the US have used the atomic bomb to end WW2?

***Modern Day Issues:***

* Syria – How did the war begin? What should be done with the refugees? Should the world intervene?
* Arab Spring – Choose one country that overthrew its leader and analyze the overthrow or how it has changed the country since the overthrow.
* What has happened / is happening in the Ukraine? Is Russia taking over? Should the world intervene?
* Is Russia a democracy today?
* Pick one topic the United Nations either has or is working on and analyze its effectiveness.

***Cold War***

* Origins – How did the Cold War begin? Was it inevitable? Whose fault is it?
* How successful was the American policy of containment?
* How successful was the Marshall Plan?
* How did the communists take over Eastern Europe in the late 1940s?
* Analyze either the Korean or Vietnam War: how they started, the nature of the war, or how they ended.
* Cuba – How and why did it become communist? What is the nature of their society today? Should the U. S. restore normal relations with Cuba?
* Communist uprisings – Analyze the Prague Spring or the Polish or Hungarian uprisings against communism.
* Analyze one Soviet or American leader and his role in the Cold War: Khrushchev, JFKennedy, LBJohnson, Nixon, Brezhnev, Gorbachev or Reagan.
* Why did the Berlin Wall come down in 1989? Why was it put up in 1960s?
* Why did communism collapse in the Soviet Union?
* How did the Arms Race or Space Race contribute to the Cold War?
* How did the Cold War affect science? What scientific discoveries were made as a result of our fight with communism?

***Post Cold War World***

* Why did Yugoslavia break apart?
* Pick one Eastern European nation and analyze its changes since the end of communism. Or research how communism fell apart in that country.

***Other topics:***

* Roots of democracy – How did ancient Greece or Rome impact the world?
* Roots of democracy – How did either the Magna Carta or the Glorious Revolution help change England’s government?
* Enlightenment – Delve deeper into one of the Enlightenment philosophers and how they changed either the social, economic, and/or political conversation.
* French Revolution – Did it improve France’s government?
* Industrial Revolution – Analyze one of the philosophies developed at this time: utopianism, social Darwinism, socialism, or communism.
* World War I – Analyze the Treaty of Versailles’ impact on Europe.