Steps for Research Paper

1. Select your research focus.

2. Formulate your thesis statement (this is the main point you’re trying to support in your paper and it should only be ONE sentence at the END of your introduction).

3. Find sources that support your thesis. You need a **MINIMUM OF THREE SOURCES. You will then need to annotate these sources. Read through them. Print them. Write on them. Highlight.** Find lines and phrases that you can use in your paper. Remember that a quote is ANY line from the paper, not just spoken words. **Keep these articles in your research folder.**

4. Complete the source outline and keep track of the citations for the articles you use. You should paste the source citation for ALL articles you USE onto a separate Google Doc. You can get this by clicking the “citation tools” button or by scrolling to the bottom of the article. That way, when you make your Works Cited page, you will simply put the citations in alphabetical order and be done! Make sure you look at the Model Source Outline page.

5. Determine the topic of each body paragraph. The body paragraphs should all work together to support your thesis, and you should decide what your “points” will be based on the research you read. Your paragraph topics should be developed into topic sentences. These topic sentences sort of act like the captains of the paragraphs: they guide and affect everything under them. The content should connect to and support your thesis.

6. Determine the order of the topics in your paper. You might decide to shift them around for effectiveness.

7. Write your introduction and have it approved by Ms. Hayes. **Due: Monday, April 1**

8. Gather information from relevant sources and record the usable quotes on the source outline. **Due: Wednesday, April 3**

9. Compose your rough draft using the mini outline as a guide. **Due: Monday, April 8**

10. Peer edit the research paper.

11. **Final draft due date: Thursday, April 11**