

English 12 Research Assignment

After spending weeks looking at a variety of sources and perspectives of consumerism, you are now ready to formulate your own conclusions based on factual and anecdotal evidence: A research essay.

Using research sources, you will:

- 1) create a research question relating to one of the "streams" of consumerism. meat, food production, sugar, fast/non-nutritive food, clothing, energy, items (minimalism), addictive substances
- 2) look for the answer to your question (research).
- 3) build a complete thesis statement (answer to your question).
- 4) write an essay proving your answer (thesis), incorporating the research into your written response (cited sources).

What resources do I use? Lucky you; most of the "leg work" of research has been done for you!:

- 1) Websites approved by me (found at www.garbelya.weebly.com > English 12> Handouts> Overconsumption resources).
- 2) Up to two of the chosen documentaries attached to this outline (list attached).
- 3) Any of the printed articles handed out in the last month.
- 4) Any resource you find on your own through the KSS online databases.
- 5) Any hard-copy books discussing your topic (including your latest novel-study title and *Brave New World*). Using non-fiction is advisable.

*All resources used are to be included in a complete and correct works cited page. To be handed in with the final research essay.

What should my completed assignment look like? Hand in the following items in the correct order in a tidy, typed format (as in, duotang, binder, or other organized method):

- 1) formal MLA title page
- 2) perfected final copy of your essay (MLA citation style)
- 3) perfected works cited page
- 4) documentary worksheet
- 5) Thesis statement worksheet
- 6) notes taken during research
- 7) annotated research items
- 8) draft copies (with obvious/clear editing).

Marking: 10 marks will be assigned for correct completion of the above paperwork (80 marks).

The research essay will be given a separate letter grade (value of 100) based on the following criteria:

English 12 Research Assignment Evaluation Criteria

- A
- free of major or frequent grammatical and spelling mistakes
 - well organized
 - correct use of all in-text citations and works cited page
 - clear introduction, body, and conclusion
 - display of original thought
 - clear and insightful connections to research and thesis statement
 - well written
 - shows an obvious commitment to doing a good job
 - stands out from other papers (maturity and control of content, voice, and style)
- B
- most of the points covered in A grade, but not quite as original or well written
 - shows promise
 - clear connections to research and thesis statement
 - correct use of all in-text citations and works cited page
- C+
- A competent discussion of major points
 - displays some grammatical and spelling problems
 - writing displays a decent effort, but could use some improvement
 - connections to thesis and research are unclear
 - writing may be underdeveloped or off-topic
 - attempted use of in-text citations and works cited page
- C
- discussion of major points is evident
 - grammatical and spelling problems are distracting
 - questionable effort
 - connections to thesis and research are unclear or weak
 - writing is underdeveloped
 - weak attempt at using in-text citations or works cited page
- F/I
- serious grammatical and/or spelling problems
 - little effort made
 - topic is not clearly supported with research
 - no attempt of in-text citations or works cited page

Formatting:

All pages double spaced

Times New Roman font, size 12

Indent each new paragraph

Include page headers

Writing a Complete Thesis Statement

Think about your topic before you begin:

- Is the commentary a strong opinion or just stating a fact?
- Is it specific enough to be interesting?
- Not specific enough: School is good.
- Is it arguable? Can the obverse view be argued as well?
- Specific: Attending school regularly is the best way to become a successful communicator.
- Is it concise? Can you say it more briefly?
- Is it written in present or past tense? Writing about literature should be in present tense. Writing about history should be in past tense.
- Does it use I, my, me, or other first person? It shouldn't. All formal expository writing MUST be in the Third Person. She writes, They write, etc...
- Is there enough "meat" to develop the idea? Test: Brainstorm...list three or four main ideas that could support your thesis statement

Once brainstorming is complete, and some research has been conducted, think about how you would like to prove your point, or what you'd like to say about it. Your thesis statement is made up of an assertion, and the three points that will be discussed in the body paragraphs of the essay.

Example (basic):

School uniforms should be made mandatory because they reduce bullying, improve grades, and

Your turn:

because

(assertion-what you will prove)

(1st reason) (2nd reason) (3rd reason)

Documentary List

Meat/food production:

Forks over Knives



Food Matters



Minimalism:

Minimalism film



Energy:

Pump



Catching the Sun



Sugar:

Fed Up



Sugar Coated



Hungry for Change



Clothing:

The True Cost



Name: _____

**Film Study Worksheet for a Documentary Seeking to Persuade the Viewer
On a Matter of Political or Social Significance**

Read the questions before you watch the film so that you will know what to look for while you watch. At breaks during the showing or at the film's end, you will have an opportunity to make short notes in the spaces provided. If you make notes while the film is playing, make sure that your note taking doesn't interfere with carefully watching the movie. You do not need to make any notes on the worksheet, but after the film is over, you will be required to fully respond to the questions.

Complete the assignment by answering each question in paragraph form. Answers need to be complete and comprehensive, demonstrating that you paid attention to the film and thought about what was shown on the screen. You may use more than one paragraph if necessary. Be sure that the topic sentence of your first paragraph uses key words from the question. All responses should be in complete sentences using proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

1. State the title of the film and the year it was released. Then briefly describe what the film is about and the position that it advocates.

Notes: _____

2. Describe the progression of the film: how it begins, what stages it passes through, and how it concludes.

Notes: _____

3. List six facts described in the film that impressed you and explain how each fact relates to the film's premise or theme.

Notes: _____

4. How did the filmmakers try to convince you of the position that the film supports? Look for appeals to logic, emotion, and prejudice.

Notes: _____

5. Did any of the reasoning given in support of the position advocated by the film seem to be weak or misleading? If so, describe the concept put forward in the film and why you thought the reasoning was flawed.

Notes: _____

6. Describe any cinematic techniques used in presenting particular scenes, images, or sounds which were designed to appeal to the viewer's emotions and to encourage the viewer to agree with the position advocated by the film, without reliance upon fact or logical argument.

Notes: _____

7. If the filmmakers asked how this film could be improved, what would you tell them? Describe the changes you would suggest in detail.

Notes: _____

8. Did the film change your mind about any aspect of the subject that it presents? What information, argument or persuasive technique caused you to change your mind?

Notes: _____
