

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Research Paper Assignment Guidelines

## American Conspiracy Theory | Research Paper Expectations

### Assignment Directions & Focused Goal

Directions: This paper outlines the assignment expectations for the research paper that you will create this quarter. Research is an essential component of academic study. Get comfy with it, because you will be working with it for the rest of your academic career. Goal: Through this research paper, you will explore an American controversy. You will consider the conspiracy theory from multiple viewpoints and elaborate on the theory.

REMEMBER: This is not a persuasive paper. Therefore, you are not trying to convince the audience that the conspiracy is inaccurate or accurate. Rather, you are simply presenting information on the conspiracy (being as objective as possible).

### Part One: Brainstorming & Such

1. Select the American conspiracy theory that you want to explore for your research paper.
2. Identify the event or occurrence and the subsequent conspiracy.
3. Create a list of research questions that you will need to answer to feel thoroughly informed about the topic so that you can educate other readers about it. You should have a minimum of five, critical research questions.

### Part Two: Research & All That Jazz

You will need to research your conspiracy theory and locate at least three different resources (“At least three,” does that mean you can use more than three sources? Yes.) One (1) of these sources must be in the form of books. The other two (2) resources can be electronic or digitally documented online. Use the handout provided to help you document and manage the research that you gather.

### Part Three: The Much Loved Outline

Once you have gathered your research you will make a standard outline (using the standard Roman Numeral format). This will be an extension of both your research and brainstorming. In your outline, your topic sentences and thesis will be used to answer and build upon those research questions you created before you gathered the textual support.

### Part Four: Diverting Drafting Bliss

Assignment: Write a research paper (**minimum 2 pages (500 word count) | maximum 4 pages (1000 word count)**) that critically analyzes the conspiracy theory you are exploring. You are expected to have a rough draft, the brainstorming information, the beautifully crafted final draft, and a works cited page in MLA format.

### The Writing Process (in a 30 Second Glance):

**Goal 1:** Select an American conspiracy theory. Brainstorm and create research questions.

**Goal 2:** Gather a minimum of 3 resources- 1 must be a book and 2 can be online resources.

**Goal 3:** Pre-Write: Create an outline organizing thoughts (this must be formatted correctly).

**Goal 4:** Complete the guided research handout to document & manage research.

**Goal 5:** Create the rough draft (Include topic sentences, evidence, and the thesis statement).

**Goal 6:** Write final draft with a strong central thesis backed by significant support gathered through research and integrated accordingly- MLA format.

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# Research Paper

Critically Analyzing Single Stories

Due: TUESDAY December 1st

1  
2  
3  
4  
5

Be Inspired: Watch the Videos  
Pre-Write: Correctly Formatted Outline  
RESEARCH... RESEARCH... RESEARCH  
Rough Draft (Get the format started)  
Create a Beautiful Final Draft

**Assignment:** In two to four pages (approximately 500-1000 words), write a research paper that explores a conspiracy theory and how multiple interpretations influence history, literature, and contemporary knowledge. → 12pt. Times New Roman font doubled spaced with last name and page number in the header and proper heading. MLA format.

## Student Checklist:

|                        |   |            |
|------------------------|---|------------|
| ___ Research Questions | Checked Nov. 9 <sup>th</sup>                    | 10 points  |
| ___ Gathering Research | Checked Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup>                   | 10 points  |
| ___ Outline            | Checked Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup>                   | 20 points  |
| ___ Rough Draft        | Checked Nov. 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> | 40 points  |
| ___ Final Draft        | Collected Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup>                  | 100 points |

# Final Paper Checklist (Just For You)

## \_\_\_ Introductory Paragraph (20 points)

- \_\_\_ Utilizes a rhetorical question, anecdote, or fact to engage audience. (4 points)
- \_\_\_ Includes a well-constructed and teacher approved thesis statement. (6 points)
- \_\_\_ Thesis statement introduces the conspiracy theory (2 point)
- \_\_\_ Definition and explanation of the conspiracy is present. (8 points)

## \_\_\_ Supporting Paragraph One: Supporting Research (20 points)

- \_\_\_ Includes a topic sentence, which supports thesis statement. (2 point)
- \_\_\_ Topic sentence elaborated. (4 points)
- \_\_\_ Includes research support (in-text quotation and citation). (4 points)
- \_\_\_ Includes explanation of how textual support exemplifies topic sentence. (6 points)
- \_\_\_ Includes concluding sentence of how this ties back to thesis. (4 points)

## \_\_\_ Supporting Paragraph Two: Supporting Research (20 points)

- \_\_\_ Includes a topic sentence, which supports thesis statement. (2 point)
- \_\_\_ Topic sentence elaborated (4 points)
- \_\_\_ Includes research support (in-text quotation and citation). (4 points)
- \_\_\_ Includes explanation of how textual support exemplifies topic sentence. (6 points)
- \_\_\_ Includes concluding sentence of how this ties back to thesis. (4 points)

## \_\_\_ Supporting Paragraph Three: Supporting Research (20 points)

- \_\_\_ Includes a topic sentence, which supports thesis statement. (2 point)
- \_\_\_ Topic sentence elaborated (4 points)
- \_\_\_ Includes research support (in-text quotation and citation). (4 points)
- \_\_\_ Includes explanation of how textual support exemplifies topic sentence. (6 points)
- \_\_\_ Includes concluding sentence of how this ties back to thesis. (4 points)

## \_\_\_ Conclusion (16 points)

- \_\_\_ Re-states the thesis statement in a new way. (2 points)
- \_\_\_ Re-summarizes topic sentences. (4 points)
- \_\_\_ Offers an overarching lesson or take-away. (10 points)

## \_\_\_ Works Cited Page & Paper Format in Correct MLA Format (4 points)