Senior Research Paper 2018-19

Congratulations. You have made it to the last leg of your educational marathon. After thirteen years of education, you now have a few short months left. As you look to the future you are undoubtedly considering what you will study next year. Some of you will enter college with a declared major, while others have not specified an area of study yet. This research paper is your opportunity to take an early first step on your next path.

You will write a college style research paper on a topic in your intended area of study. This paper will be written in full APA format, which is different from the setup and citation of other essays you probably have written (YHS usually teaches MLA format). The essay text will be nine to ten pages double spaced (2500 words) exclusive of title page, abstract, and works cited pages. The page length is only a guideline, and you should keep in mind that this essay should be the length that it needs to be given the topic (don’t stop immediately at page nine with an underdeveloped topic because you have met the minimum). If you can’t write the minimum page length for your topic, your topic is either too small for this assignment or you need to do additional research.

You will identify a topic for which you can develop a thesis that you will prove through research. The nature of a thesis is that it must be reasonably debatable; it cannot be a statement of simple fact. This assignment requires the use of research to prove your thesis. While you are permitted to use any accurate, authoritative source, you must use at least six sources from professional journals. You will use a minimum of ten sources in support of your thesis.

You will be required to write an outline (in advance of writing the rough draft) in order to ensure the completion of a critical step of the process. Citation of works quoted and paraphrased is required (anything less is plagiarism). Save your outline and all research materials, as you may be called upon to prove the originality of your work using them.

One of the purposes of this essay is to have you practice another commonly used paper format and citation style. The essay will be formatted according to APA format rules and will include all parts of the format including a cover page, abstract, and works cited page. Information and resources will provided to you in order to help you with the correct format. Essays which do not follow the format will be penalized heavily.

This can be a tough time to focus and get down to work, but I hope this is work that you will find interesting and fulfilling.