

**Senior Exhibition Research Paper
Assignment Guidelines**

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Begin your paper with an essential question.

Your question should be open-ended, controversial, relevant, engaging, and of passionate interest to you. If you already know the answer, come up with another question. You should not be able to answer this question with “yes” or “no.”

Use a wide variety of sources.

Please aim to cite 15-20 sources in a controlled, meaningful way. Your sources should reflect the cream of your research and be in different formats and from different places. Include books, websites, scholarly articles, periodicals, interviews, and observations. Do not provide a shallow or one-sided source list.

Demonstrate critical, independent thinking.

Your paper is a showcase for your thinking and work this term. Present multiple perspectives, approaches to your question, and disciplines. Question your own assumptions about your topic. Allow your paper to expand the reader’s thinking as well.

Your paper should not be a regurgitation of your research. It should reflect your original ideas, your fresh approach to the issues. What did your brain come up with after researching for months, and thinking about your topic deeply?

Provide context and analysis.

Give background so that the reader can place your research in context.. Analyze current understandings about your topic. Compare and contrast points of view.

Use correct MLA formatting throughout your paper.

Your paper is incomplete without at least 15 parenthetical citations and a Sources Cited page in proper MLA format.

Paper should be 15-20 pages long with no filler.

You should be answering a question that has no obvious answer. Therefore, you will need about 20 pages to discuss the question and your discoveries. There should be no filler in your paper. Filler is boring. Don’t bore your reader or yourself.

Proofread your paper so it is error-free.

Your paper is the product of months of work, thinking, research, and discussion. Don’t turn in a paper that has been cheapened by convention errors. If your paper is not clearly proofread, it will be returned to you.