

Africa Social Studies Research Project

Nguyen/Cucinelli - 9th Grade Honours Block

You will write a thesis driven research paper. A thesis-driven paper makes an arguable claim and defends it: offer a thesis about your topic and then present supportive evidence and thorough analysis.

This assignment deals with topics covered in both parts of the Humanities Block. The writing components and intellectual expectations are part of Language Arts and Social Studies; thus, the final product of this project will go in both gradebooks under the Writing Category.

Directions:

Pick a prompt below to

- (1) read/research to refine your topic
- (2) craft a research question
- (3) read / research / take notes
- (4) answer your question with a thesis statement
- (5) create an outline that details/organizes the facts and analysis that will answer your thesis w/citations and works cited page
- (6) write a rough draft to be peer edited
- (7) write a 700-900 word, multi-paragraph researched essay with internal citations & a works cited page

Take advantage of class time to research and develop ideas. Cite at least **FOUR impressive, academic sources** in your paper / have on your Works Cited. TWO of the sources need to be physical books you can hold in your hands and two of the sources need to come from the SHS Databases on the Library website. (Note: no textbooks or general questionable websites – i.e. Wikipedia, wiki-anything, answers.com)

Process:

1. **Create a historical question (that narrows the focus of the prompt you pick) and thesis** explaining the prompt of your choice. You will get this approved BEFORE you start on your outline.
2. **Create 20 note and 4 source cards** of your compiled research.
3. **Create a research proposal/outline**, complete with question, thesis, and paper outline. Your outline should include the facts that will support your thesis and the analysis that is necessary to connect your facts to your thesis. You should make sure to address an issue with enough research for **at least a one page single spaced outline that will become a 700-900 word essay**.
4. **Create a works cited page** following proper MLA formatting for your 4+ impressive sources-at least 1 physical book sources & 3 SHS Databases sources.

5. **Rough Draft.** This serves as a complete but editable version of your final paper. This must be a minimum of 600 words, which will be peer edited in class.
6. **Final Copy.** Write a 700-900 word essay, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1" margins, MLA formatted, research paper addressing the research question you created.

LATE PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED AT 10% PER DAY - INCLUDING WEEKENDS - EVEN IF YOU ARE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

Prompts:

If you have an idea for a paper not listed in the prompts below you must submit a written proposal for approval.

- Analyze the economic or social or political impact of European colonization on one African civilization/nation.
- Analyze the economic or social or political impact of European imperialism on one African civilization/nation.
- Analyze the relative importance of the factors leading to one African nation's independence after 1945.
- Analyze and argue how one European nation was able to conquer one African civilization.
- Analyze the most significant impact of one of the Abrahamic religions on an African civilization.
- Evaluate the importance and impact of these suggested topics (or get your own approved):
 - Bantu Migration
 - Nubia
 - Meroe
 - Axum
 - Carthage
 - Hippo (the place not the animal)
 - Berbers
 - Ghana
 - Mali
 - Songhai
 - Benin
 - Hausa
 - Axum/Ethopia
 - East African Commercial Cities (Kilwa, Mogadishu, Mombasa, Sofala)
 - Commercial Islands (Zanzibar, Lamu)
 - Great Zimbabwe
 - Ibn Battua
 - Hannibal
 - Mansa Musa