

Formative Research Paper Assessment

This semester each of you will write a research paper focused on a government topic of your choice. We want to see how well you can write an argumentative research paper. This two day activity is designed to assess your research paper writing skills.

Step 1: Choose a Topic

Topic 1: Should marijuana be legalized?

Topic 2: Is capital punishment (the death penalty) necessary?

Step 2: Writing a Claim:

Choose your position on your topic and write an arguable claim by completing the following sentence.

Marijuana (should or should not) be legalized for recreational use _____

or

The death penalty (should or should not be) used as a punishment _____

Step 3: Research Your Topic

Research your topic by finding two sources which support your position. Be sure at least one of your sources is from Logan's SIRS database (password: jimmy). You may have a second source from SIRS or from an Internet source of your choosing.

You may write notes or open a google.docs to gather information on your topic. Be sure to identify the source, which you will use in your paper.

Step 4: Write an Introduction to Your Research Paper

Open a google docs document on your Chromebook. Write an introduction, as if you were writing a longer research paper on this topic. Be sure to include your claim.

Step 5: Write Body 1 for Your Research Paper

After you have completed your introduction, write body one of your research paper. Be sure to include information you gathered which supports your claim. Use MLA style in-text citations to identify the sources of your information.

Step 6: Create a Works Cited Page

Create a simple works cited page for your two sources in the MLA format.

Step 7: Edit your paper by looking at the Formative Assessment Research Rubric.

Make any edits, additions, or changes that strengthen your introduction and body 1.

Step 8: Submit Your Paper to Turn-it-in

Log on to turnitin and our classroom to submit your paper from google.docs.