**Guide to the Research Project: The Great Gatsby**

A research paper is required for all Junior English students. As the name implies, the research paper requires you to gather information from many sources, draw your own conclusions from reading, and explain or prove your points by citing various sources. This is a RESEARCH PAPER, so you will have to “search” for information. You will also need to analyze, interpret, organize, and write the results of your search into a coherent and MLA-documented format. You will need to choose suitable research topics from the list provided, develop a central idea or thesis, and consider points to be discussed within the paper. You can begin drafting your paper to report your research after gathering information and developing a coherent outline. Both editing and revising are crucial to this process, and you should strive to have an error free paper that conforms to both academic language and Standard American English. By the end of this process, you will have to show me all of the formative steps of your research process, which will be detailed below.

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| **Research Paper Topics** | | |
| Compare and contrast the major female characters in the novel: Daisy, Jordan, and Myrtle. How does each act towards men? What are their motivations/goals/interests/values? How are they treated by men (including the narrator/author)? | Is what Gatsby feels for Daisy love, obsession, affection, or accumulation/objectification? | Discuss Fitzgerald’s use of symbolism (this is a large topic that must be significantly narrowed choose 3-4). How does the symbol function in the novel? |
| Explain how the novel does or does not demonstrate the death of the American Dream. | How are the themes of voting rights for women, social classes and conspicuous consumption expressed in the Great Gatsby? |
| Describe Fitzgerald’s satirical portrait of modern society using Gatsby’s parties as support. | Trace the development of the narrator, Nick Carraway – how does he change, and how are these changes significant (how do they relate to the themes of the novel)? |
| Argue who is/are the most admirable and/or despicable character(s) in the novel and why. |

**Formatting Requirements**

1. Typed, double spaced, 12 pt. black font, Times New Roman

2. MLA format for in-text citations and Works Cited page

3. Correct MLA header and page numbers on essay

**Research Process and Product Requirements**

1. Participation throughout the research process

2. Minimum four sources USED in the final paper (The Great Gatsby + 1 source per topic selected above)

3. Minimum one quote from research USED in EACH body paragraph (6 quotes total)

4. Minimum three quotes from The Great Gatsby USED in body paragraphs (minimum one PER topic selected above) –quote analysis is worth 45 points (see assignment description for more information)

5. Milestone products (see below):

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| 100 | DG |
| 100 | DG |
| 100 | DG |
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| 100 | PG |
| 100 | TG |

a. Minimum four source cards with each source

correctly cited in MLA format (final

sources ONLY)

b. Minimum three quote cards with quotes from

outside research to be used in paper (use in rough and

final drafts)

c. Minimum three quote cards with quotes from

The Great Gatsby to be used in paper (use in

rough and final drafts)

d. Base outline

e Thesis statement

g. Rough draft

h. Works Cited page (draft)

6. Writing conferences with Ms. Rohde (optional but strongly suggested. Your responsibility to schedule)

7. Final research product:

a. Final draft of research paper TYPED in MLA format

b. All milestone products in Folder

**Check When Completed:** **Research Process Schedule**

Essay Guide Research project overview in class

Google Form On your own: Preview research topics, identify supporting quotes in novel

Note Cards Research using both print and internet sources

Google Form Thesis

Note Cards Quote Cards

Laptop Databases Lesson

Paper Work on outlines/due

Nearpod Integrating quotes Lesson

Paper Outline

Folder Final check for all milestone grades

Paper/Google Doc Introduction/Body paragraphs/Conclusion Written

Paper/Google Doc Rough draft

Before/After Writing conferences (you will sign up)

Nearpod MLA style Lesson

Google Classroom Finished Research Paper ready to be submitted online and folder with milestone products due at BEGINNING OF CLASS for 100% of points earned **(100 points)** No papers will be accepted after 11:59 PM (late papers will be penalized 20% of points earned).

**Milestone Products (600 points)**

See page 1 of research packet.

All milestone products (source cards, note cards, outlines, and research (copies of internet sources)) must be in the folder you will turn in with your research paper. Failure to include these with your final research paper will result in a 25% reduction of ALL milestone product grades.

**Quote analysis**

1. Choose your three quotes from The Great Gatsby (one per topic)

2. For each quote:

a. determine the speaker and audience of the quote

b. determine the speaker’s tone and identify diction that can prove your interpretation

c. determine the meaning and significance of the quote

d. Write a well-developed paragraph (5-7 sentences) in which you discuss speaker, audience, and tone, and describe the meaning and significance of the quote.

3. You will analyze a total of three quotes (one per topic) and write a total of three paragraphs (one per quote).

**Research Paper (10% of Grade)**

Pick three topics from page 1 of the handout and write about their significance to the novel as a whole. You must use at least one source for each topic chosen (minimum of three sources). These thoughts are not YOUR thoughts, but someone else’s and must be documented using MLA formatted in-text citations. You may paraphrase, summarize, or directly quote, but if your source said it, you MUST document it. Otherwise, it’s plagiarism.

You are reporting thoughts, but you must also explain the relevance and/or significance of this to the novel as a whole.

Use quotes from the novel as evidence to support your claims. You must use a minimum of one quote from The Great Gatsby per topic (minimum three quotes total).

For the love of all that is good in this world, DO NOT use contractions, sentence fragments, or first- or second-person pronouns, like I or you.

ALL research papers are due AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS on the due date. Any paper submitted AFTER I have locked up papers will be considered late and will be penalized 30% of points earned. No late papers will be accepted after 3 PM on the due date.

Your essay should be structured in the following manner:

1. Introduction (with a thesis statement): 3-5 sentences (You MUST use the introduction paragraph outline or you will lose points)

2. Six body paragraphs (two per topic): 5-7 sentences each (You should use the body paragraph outline)

3. Conclusion: 3-5 sentences (You MUST use the conclusion paragraph outline or you will lose points)

4. Works Cited page with continuous numbering

**Academic Honesty**

Within this packet you will find information for properly documenting sources and avoiding plagiarism. You should also refer to:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

Diana Hacker Humanities website

<http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_s1-0011.html>

for additional questions concerning MLA Guidelines for in-text-citations, Works Cited, and correct typing procedures.

**YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING GRADES FOR ANY OF THE MAJOR MISTAKES LISTED BELOW:**

1. No or little internal documentation: 40% (F)

2. No Works Cited page: 60% (F)

3. Any passages written word for word but not quoted and/or properly documented: 40% (F)

a. Referral to the office for plagiarism

4. Excessive quotations, even if they are properly documented: 40% (F)