

Research Paper Instructions

Many of the books we have read this year have had characters whose lives are impacted by war. War and its consequences have been a recurring theme during our study of literature this year. *A Thousand Splendid Suns* uses the tumultuous history of Afghanistan as a backdrop for its story. The United States' conflict with Afghanistan has been one of its longest wars, and yet much is still unknown about this conflict. As we read the novel you will begin assembling information on this war to use in a research paper.

Your task for this research paper will be to give some background into the Afghanistan conflict. As a class we will establish the criteria we will use to evaluate this war. Using the class criteria you will explain two ways this war has had a positive impact and you will explain two ways this war has had a negative impact. Then, based on your research findings, you will argue whether the war has been more harmful or more helpful.

Paper Requirements

- Typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-pt font
- MLA format citations and MLA works cited page
- Paragraph Break-Down
 - 1 Introduction Paragraph (background on topic, claim, outline of reasons)
 - 2 Body Paragraphs centered on benefits
 - 2 Body Paragraphs centered on drawbacks
 - 1 Body Paragraph where you argue harm/good & possible solution
 - 1 Conclusion Paragraph (reworded claim and topic sentences)
- Must have gone through the stages of **outline, rough draft, peer-review, and final draft**
- Paper must use and cite at least three different sources
- Submitted via e-mail as an attachment to gbigelow@ames-slc.org by 11:59pm on **Wednesday, April 10. You will receive extra credit if you turn your paper in before Spring Break.** Subject box must be titled **Research Paper**. In the message, write your name and class period. If you do not write the correct subject, you will not receive a confirmation that I received it.

Class Criteria for Research Paper:

What role should the United States military play (have played) in Afghanistan?

Class Criteria: (List the class criteria for judging the war in Afghanistan)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Step 1: Research and Annotation

Before we can begin to form arguments and claims about the war in Afghanistan we need to examine the data. You will be responsible for annotating and effectively using research. Your paper must include **three different sources**. You will need **to annotate two articles and have them checked off by Bigelow**.

- 1.** I have given you several articles that are current and relevant about the Afghanistan War. If you choose you may use additional articles. Use the guide below to help you find relevant articles.

Electronic Source Research Guide

When you search for information online, you're going to find lots of it...but is it good information? You will need to determine that for yourself if you want to make sure the information you include in your writing is as true as possible. This guide is meant to help you, first, evaluate websites for credibility, and, second, use online tools effectively.

Evaluation Criteria for Websites (modified California State University's library guide)

When you are trying to determine if a website is credible, you need to weed out the **CRAAP**. Follow these guidelines to make sure the website contains good information.

- **Currency: What is the timeliness of the information?**
 - When was the information published or posted? Does the site even provide you with dates?
 - Has the information been revised or updated?
 - Are the links functional or are there dead links?
- **Relevance: How much does the site relate to your topic?**
 - Who is the intended audience of the site?
 - Is the information at an appropriate level (meaning not too easy or too advanced for your needs)?
- **Authority: Who is the source of the information?**
 - Who is the author/publisher/sponsor of the site?
 - Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
 - Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?
- **Accuracy: How reliable, truthful, and correct is the information?**
 - Is the information supported by evidence?
 - Has the information been reviewed or referenced?
 - Can you verify any of the information in another source?
 - Are there spelling, grammar, or typographical errors?
- **Purpose: What is the reason the information exists?**
 - Is the author trying to inform, teach, sell, entertain, or persuade?
 - Does the point of view appear impartial and objective?
 - Are there political, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?

Online Search Databases

As a student in the state of Utah, you have free access to an online database. This search engine allows you to search for newspaper, magazines, and peer-reviewed articles on various topics. *Peer reviewed articles are great sources because it means that a group of scholars who are considered experts in their fields read and approved the content of the article before it was published.* Many colleges use a similar (but more complex) version of this database. At school you will not need a user name and password, but to access the site at home, you need to enter the following when prompted:

Website: <http://pioneer.uen.org/k12/>

Log-in Name: **pioneer**

Password: **online**

Click on “EBSCO”, then on “All Databases”. I usually select “Academic Search Premier” and “Newspaper Source” and then click “Continue”. Then you can search just like you would in Google.

Another good website that works hard to provide reliable sources (but not always as trustworthy as the UEN site) is <http://www.ipl.org/>

Some Words about Wikipedia:

Although Wikipedia is a good place to find basic information on topics, it is not a credible source that you’d cite in an academic paper—especially as you prepare for college. Even Jimmy Wales, Wikipedia’s co-founder said as much:

Speaking at a conference at the University of Pennsylvania called “The Hyperlinked Society,” Mr. Wales said that he gets about 10 e-mail messages a week from students who complain that Wikipedia has gotten them into academic hot water. “They say, ‘Please help me. I got an F on my paper because I cited Wikipedia’” ... he said he has no sympathy for their plight, noting that he thinks to himself: “you’re in college; don’t cite the encyclopedia.”

"Wikipedia Founder Discourages Academic Use of His Creation." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. 12 June 2006. 26 February 2012.

[Watch the video to help you fill in the blanks]

Why not cite Wikipedia?

- It’s not because Wikipedia is a bad source for information, it’s because it’s an _____.
- Wikipedia is like an ongoing conversation. The same way you wouldn’t cite something you overheard, you wouldn’t cite Wikipedia itself as a source because the author of the information is _____ to you.

What you should use Wikipedia for:

- A starting point for your research
 - As you read through a Wikipedia entry, write down _____ phrases, _____, _____, and any other related _____ or _____.
- Use the citations provided at the end of the article. But be careful, because not all citations are peer reviewed or _____.
- To find related _____ links.

2. Read and annotate articles

Tips for Annotating Articles

Remember that the point is to interact with the text. Engage the author in a conversation. Question. Clarify.

- ✓ Highlight/underline KEY information (usually I do this after I've finished the paragraph so that I'm sure that I really know what the key information is).
- ✓ Take marginal notes (key words, names, dates, questions, phrases, connections to other information you've gathered).
- ✓ Give a brief summary of the article at the end.

Now, use these annotations to add information to your notes sheet.

- ✓ Rewrite key words, names, important quotes (1-2 sentences max and be sure to note page numbers), and questions.
- ✓ Be sure to take down citation information.

Use these notes to help inform your future searches during your research time.

Research Article Information Tracker

Source #1 Citation Information	Source #2 Citation Information	Source #3 Citation Information
Key facts, stats, quotes, and questions	Key facts, stats, quotes, and questions	Key facts, stats, quotes, and questions

Calendar

Finish Giraffe Awards, Establish Criteria, Assignment Overview, Receive Articles

A-Day: Monday, March 11

B-Day: Tuesday, March 12

How to Annotate, Annotate one article

A-Day: Wednesday, March 13

B-Day: Thursday, March 14

Annotate Second Article, complete reading of articles, Supplement research-if needed/wanted

A-Day: Friday, March 15

B-Day: Monday, March 18

Paper Outline, MLA Citations

A-Day: Tuesday, March 19

B-Day: Wednesday, March 20

Rough Draft

A-Day: Thursday, March 21

B-Day: Friday, March 22

Peer Review

A-Day: Monday, March 25

B-Day: Tuesday, March 26

Final Draft

A-Day: Wednesday, March 27

B-Day: Thursday, March 28

Papers Due: Wednesday, April 10