

Second Semester Research Paper
2014
American Literature
Kirkland

The time has come to embark upon our journey of research. We will focus our research around *Native Son* by Richard Wright.

The assignments below will help you keep your student on track in order to participate in every part of the research project. If students fall behind in the process, they will be behind in the research paper.

In Class

The students have notes on MLA format, various sources, instructions on writing source cards, documenting quotations, documenting paraphrases, and documenting summaries. Please encourage your student to use these notes during the research process.

Key Requirements

****This paper is 20% of the semester grade****

- 5 Sources (1 primary source and 4 secondary sources)
- List of Works Cited entries with corresponding quotes (on source cards or other form of documentation)

Final product must be a 4-page minimum, 6-page maximum paper in MLA manuscript form. The required Works Cited page is not included in the length requirements.

Important Due Dates

- Thesis Due: Wednesday, March 12th
- Brainstorm/Outline Due (see document on website): Thursday, March 13th
- Sources Citations Document (see document on website): Tuesday, March 18th
- Rough Draft: Friday, March 21st
If you want feedback on your rough draft, you must make an appointment on a morning that I am free
- Final: Friday, March 28th (AT BEGINNING OF CLASS – PRINTED HARD COPY)

Research Topics

1. Psychoanalyze Bigger Thomas. Does Bigger have mental problems, or has society placed constraints on Bigger that have pushed him to his breaking point?
2. Expand on the role of women in the novel. How are women seen? How are women treated?
3. Analyze a theme of the novel. How does this theme appear throughout the novel as a whole?
4. Compare and contrast two characters in the novel. How are these two characters alike? How are these two characters different?
5. Choose your own topic—make sure I approve it beforehand.