NUSTEP Thinking and Writing

Mrs. Wolf

Question and Answer Research Paper

Due by Friday, May 22

This research project will give you a chance to choose your own topic, design the format, utilize various databases, and build upon the research and citation skills we have used throughout the year.

***Topic: Pose a thoughtful research question that you will answer throughout a four-paragraph essay format.***

Objectives:

1. Students will use writing for inquiry, learning, critical thinking, communicating and engaging with the world.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of writing as open, collaborative, and social process and work through the stages of the writing process; invention, drafting, revising, and editing.
3. Develop a specific research question or focus to respond to a writing assignment.
4. Identify a need for information and access, evaluate, use, and attribute primary secondary sources in their work.
5. Integrate the words and ideas of others into their work and avoid accidental or deliberate plagiarism.
6. Write with clarity, brevity, coherence, and control of conventions such as syntax, grammar, punctuation and spelling.
7. Use technologies to conduct research and to draft, revise, edit, and design documents.

**Assignment:** You will write a four-paragraph essay, including APA cited information from at least THREE sources, original commentary to demonstrate understanding, and an APA formatted Reference page.

**Types of Research Questions:**

1. ***Asking factual questions:***

Assume your reader knows nothing about your subject. Make an effort to tell them everything they need to know to understand what you will say in your project.

**Make a list of specific questions that ask: Who? What? When? Where?**

**Example**: For a report about President Abraham Lincoln's attitude and policies towards slavery, people will have to know; Who was Abraham Lincoln? Where and when was he born? What political party did he belong to? When was he elected president? What were the attitudes and laws about slavery during his lifetime? How did his actions affect slavery?

1. ***Asking Interpretive Questions:***

These kinds of questions are the result of your own original thinking. They can be based on the preliminary research you have done on your chosen topic. Select one or two to answer in your presentation. They can be the basis of forming a thesis statement.

A. ***Hypothetical****: How would things be different today if something in the past had been different?*

**Example**: How would our lives be different today if the Confederate (southern) states had won the United States Civil War? What would have happened to the course of World War Two if the Atomic Bomb hadn't been dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

B. ***Prediction****: How will something look or be in the future, based on the way it is now?*

**Example**: What will happen to sea levels if global warming due to ozone layer depletion continues and the polar caps melt significantly? If the population of China continues to grow at the current rate for the next fifty years, how will that impact its role in world politics?

C. ***Solution****: What solutions can be offered to a problem that exists today?*

**Example**: How could global warming be stopped? What can be done to stop the spread of sexually transmitted diseases among teenagers?

D. ***Comparison or Analogy****: Find the similarities and differences between your main subject and a similar subject, or with another subject in the same time period or place.*

**Example**: In what ways is the Civil War in the former Yugoslavia similar to (or different from) the United States Civil War?  
What is the difference in performance between a Porsche and a Lamborghini?

E. ***Judgment****: Based on the information you find, what can you say as your informed opinion about the subject?*

**Example**: How does tobacco advertising affect teen cigarette smoking? What are the major causes of eating disorders among young women? How does teen parenthood affect the future lives of young women and men?

**Expectations:**

* Your research should focus primarily on using database sources; consider the ones we have used throughout the year including Biography in Context, Scientific sources, and others such as Opposing Viewpoints, GaleNOVELny, and ProQuest.
* You must type the essay making sure it is double-spaced and using 12-point font.
* Cite all sources according to APA requirements – either by the author’s last name or by the article title if there is no author and the publication date.
* Include a header for each page with the question you are posing.
* The ***introduction*** must present an overview of the topic and a clear research question that you will explore throughout the essay.
* The ***conclusion*** must include a thoughtful and reflective answer to the question you posed in the introduction.
* You must include your own original commentary after your cited information to demonstrate understanding and respond to the information you discovered through your sources.
* You must also include an accompanying Reference page that lists all the sources cited in your essay. You will use [www.citationmachine.net](http://www.citationmachine.net) to help create this page when using non database sources.
* You will independently conduct research at home; email me with questions.

**Rough Draft:** I encourage you to submit a rough draft for my review by Monday, May 11. Make sure if you submit the draft, you enable the edit feature. Do not send the draft as a PDF format because I will not be able to make any revisions; I can only do so with a document that is able to be edited.

**Final draft due** – Friday, May 22, 2020

There are so many great directions to go in for this assignment; I look forward to seeing the wide range of questions you will ask and the various answers you can explore. I hope you embrace the choice option and build upon what we have learned throughout the year. I am here to help, encourage, and guide you through this final project.

For the Header (Google Docs):

Select Insert; Header – Type the Question you are asking; Page number – choose the right hand corner option.