

Senior Research Task

- Goal:** A graduating senior must demonstrate competency in research-based writing.
- Task:** Students will create a brief but authentic research paper.
- Value:** The paper is worth 300 points (all or nothing).
- Due Date:** The paper is due at 8:54 AM on May 17th to both [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) and as a color-coded* hardcopy in class: A Day's will be due on the 17th in class, while B Day's will be due on the 18th in class.

The paper may:

- be on any topic
- and be either persuasive/argumentative or expository/informational.

The paper must:

- be *no longer than* two pages,
- be in *either* [MLA**](#) or [APA***](#) format (following all necessary conventions of either),
- properly cite at least two specific [sources](#),
- include a properly formatted [Works Cited](#) (for MLA) or [Reference List](#) (for APA),
- include at least *one* [summary](#) of a source,
- include at least *one* [paraphrase](#) of a source,
- include at least *one* [quotation](#) of a source,
- include at least *one* sentence of [original content](#) (also called commentary),
- and contain no [plagiarism](#).

* Color-coding will be done in class on either May 17th or 18th under Mr. Benton's guidance. Individual sentences will be marked into five categories: commentary, summary, paraphrase, direct quotation, and common knowledge.

** MLA is primarily used in the humanities (academic disciplines that study human culture using methods that are primarily analytical, critical, or speculative, often involving a significant historical element).

*** APA is used primarily in research fields driven by the empirical method (the approach of using a collection of data to base a theory or derive a conclusion) used in the natural or social sciences.