Final Research Paper Advice Part 1

1. Look over all the official requirements, directions, and grading rubric again on my website under Units 5-6- **Week 1 Research Paper Directions**
2. **Remember there is a 2300-2500 word count requirement.** Your final paper must be at least 2300 words and it CANNOT be more than 2500 words! (You do not include footnotes in the word count).
3. One difficulty in college research papers is limiting your words to be under the limit- in this case 2500 word limit:
4. It makes you edit your paper for only what is necessary, relevant, and most important.
5. Only include necessary and relevant information to SUPPORT your THESIS. Every word in your paper and every sentence in your paper must be necessary and relevant to support your THESIS.
6. Only include the most important information and evidence to support your thesis.
7. It makes you improve your writing style. I do believe the secret to excellent writing style is brevity and power.
8. For example- which sentence is better?
9. In the end I do believe it can be said that both Martin Luther King Jr and his ideas and also Malcolm X and his ideas eventually both agreed and started to talk about the same thing, and that same thing is mostly talking about to continue the theme of American History that is expanding democracy for all the people of the USA.
10. In the end both Martin Luther King Jr and Malcolm X's message converged to talk about the same theme important in US History, which is expanding democracy for all people.
11. Ultimately, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X's divergent methods converged into a single, unified message: the expansion of democracy for all people.
12. **You must have a Final Annotated Bibliography at the end of your paper.**
13. Check out the best paper from last year- Units 5-6: Week 1 Best Student Research Paper Last Year
14. You only need to include in the annotated bibliography any source used in your final paper
15. You must have at least 9 sources used in your paper to get an “A”: 2 academic books, 2 academic journal articles, 2 primary sources, plus 3 others…..
16. Of course the more sources you use- the better your grade
17. The annotations can be very simple: just 1-2 sentences about this source and why it is a good source
18. **What is the format?**

-Check out the Research Paper Directions & Best Student Paper from last year

1. **Where is the Grade Rubric?**

-Check out the Research Paper Directions

1. **A Final Note about Plagiarism**
2. Check out the Research Paper Directions
3. You must appreciate how serious this is taken at college: I have seen many good students get in serious trouble at college about plagiarism
4. This is why this paper (and everything you write in college) must be submitted through TURNITIN
5. There are different types of plagiarism. Let's review:

-Open our textbook to page 928. Let's say you want to use the last paragraph in your paper. Let's look at some examples and you tell me if it is plagiarism or not?

1. The traditional Civil Rights Movement ended in 1968 because of its new obstacles. The issues it confronted-housing and job discrimination, educational inequality, poverty, and racism- involved the difficult task of changing people's attitudes and behavior. These major changes were not something the majority of Americans wanted to support so the movement ended.

-Is this plagiarism? Why or why not?

2. The traditional Civil Rights Movement ended in 1968 because of its new obstacles. The issues it confronted-housing and job discrimination, educational inequality, poverty, and racism- involved the difficult task of changing people's attitudes and behavior.[[1]](#footnote-1) These major changes were not something the majority of Americans wanted to support so the movement ended.

-Is this plagiarism? Why or why not?

3. The traditional Civil Rights Movement ended in 1968 because of its new obstacles. "The issues it confronted-housing and job discrimination, educational inequality, poverty, and racism- involved the difficult task of changing people's attitudes and behavior". [[2]](#footnote-2)These major changes were not something the majority of Americans wanted to support so the movement ended.

-Is this plagiarism? Why or why not?

4. The traditional Civil Rights Movement ended in 1968 because of its new obstacles. These new obstacles included areas like job and housing opportunities, poverty, and changing some of America's racist culture and beliefs.[[3]](#footnote-3) These major changes were not something the majority of Americans wanted to support so the movement ended.

-Is this plagiarism? Why or why not?

5. The traditional Civil Rights Movement ended in 1968 because of its new obstacles that included areas such as job opportunity, fair housing, poverty, racism, and "the difficult task of changing people's attitudes and behavior" that would prove to be something the majority of Americans did not want to confront.[[4]](#footnote-4) As a result, the traditional movement ended.

-Is this plagiarism? Why or why not?

1. **Do the "little but important things"**
2. STRUCTURE, STRUCTURE, STRUCTURE! (Remember this is NOT a 5-paragraph essay! Each section- Introduction, Support #1, Support #2, Support #3, Conclusion can and should contain several paragraphs within the section)
3. Introduction ends with THESIS
4. Each paragraph in Support #1 begins with TOPIC SENTENCES that specifically relate to how it supports your thesis
5. Each paragraph in Support #1 ends with CONCLUDING SENTENCES that specially explain how this paragraph supports your thesis
6. The end of Support #1 concluding sentences also provide a transition to Support #2
7. Each paragraph in Support #2 begins with TOPIC SENTENCES that specifically relate to how it supports your thesis
8. Each paragraph in Support #2 ends with CONCLUDING SENTENCES that specially explain how this paragraph supports your thesis
9. The end of Support #2 concluding sentences also provide a transition to Support #3
10. Each paragraph in Support #3 begins with TOPIC SENTENCES that specifically relate to how it supports your thesis
11. Each paragraph in Support #3 ends with CONCLUDING SENTENCES that specially explain how this paragraph supports your thesis
12. Your FINAL CONCLUSION returns everything back to your THESIS and expands on its larger significance.
13. **How to really impress your History teachers?**
14. What is the "purpose" of research papers and doing individual research?
15. Mr C answer: Because our textbook is not that good! We constantly see that our interpretations of history and historical events must always be questioned, added to, revised, and improved. Doing a research paper is your chance to enter into this "academic debate" and improve History!
16. The more you can make this pursuit the central focus and purpose of your research paper, the more you will impress me and other History teachers.
17. This is what I mean by "the academic debate". If possible can you structure you Introduction this way:
18. Introduction
19. Interesting Hook
20. Very short general information on your BIG TOPIC "The Truman Doctrine"
21. What is the "academic debate" on your topic?
22. Some historians think "The Truman Doctrine….. (proves the USSR Menace Theory that Truman was only trying to contain communism)
23. Other historians think "The Truman Doctrine…..(Proves the US Imperialism Theory that actually Truman himself created and exacerbated The Cold War)
24. NOTE: If you cannot go into details of "the academic debate" and different historians and their theories then you COULD INSTEAD at least mention what "traditional or most US History books say about your topic…. (Most US History textbooks assert the Truman Doctrine was an example of containment and how the USA was responding to USSR communist expansion). You could use our textbook and also 1 or 2 other textbooks here?
25. This should lead to your RESEARCH QUESTION

-Therefore this research paper will explore the question of…..(to what extant did the Truman Doctrine create and exacerbate the Cold War?)

E. This should finally lead to your 1 THESIS STATEMENT at the end of your Introduction

-This paper will argue……The Truman Doctrine did in fact create and exacerbate The Cold War through the three following areas: heightened tension at Postdam Conference, creating the Red Scare environment, and placing military over diplomatic options as the guide.

5.The Point of your Support Areas and Paragraphs SHOULD BE to present and analyze NEW EVIDENCE that supports your NEW THESIS on this topic. In other words, you will most impress a History teacher if you can present and analyze NEW EVIDENCE that expands our understanding of your topic.

**6. CONCLUSION**

If possible return to the "academic debate" in your conclusion also.

Explain in more details how your research paper adds to, expands on, or changes the current understanding of your topic?

Expand also how your research paper helps us better understand important THEMES in US History also?

If possible then expand your research paper beyond US History also: how does your research paper help us understand other topics beside just US History?

1. **My Final Advice for Today: VARIETY, VARIETY, VARIETY**
2. If I am looking at a random section of the body of your paper I should find…

Multiple sources footnoted on this page

Multiple types of sources used on this page (secondary, primary, etc.)

Multiple ways of using sources (direct quotation over 4 lines, direct quotation under 4 lines, paraphrase only, mix of paraphrase and short quotation, etc.)

Let's look at 1 student's rough draft as an example on my website:

**Week 4 Student Rough Draft Excerpt**

1. Danzer, Gerald. *The Americans.* Evanston: Houghton Mifflin, 2009, p. 928 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Danzer, Gerald. *The Americans.* Evanston: Houghton Mifflin, 2009, p. 928 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Danzer, Gerald. *The Americans.* Evanston: Houghton Mifflin, 2009, p. 928 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Danzer, Gerald. *The Americans.* Evanston: Houghton Mifflin, 2009, p. 928 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)