Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Research Paper Day 1: Worksheet on Topic & Research Question**

**Directions:** You will have time in class today to work on and hopefully finish this worksheet. Whatever you do not finish in class time then you should finish for homework. IF YOU ARE NOT IN CLASS THEN YOU MUST COMPLETE THE ENTIRE WORKSHEET BY YOURSELF FOR HOMEWORK BEFORE THE NEXT CLASS.

**Overview:** The purpose of today’s work is to get you started on thinking about a good topic for your 1 research paper in this class. Of course you do NOT have to decide on your final topic today.

You will write 1 research paper this entire year in US History class. In the first semester you will find your topic and sources. In the second semester you will read your sources and write your paper.

**ONE IMPORTANT NOTE BEFORE WE GET STARTED:** Unfortunately there as been a problem in recent years of students cheating on this research paper, which results in them receiving a “0” for this entire grade, in addition to receiving discipline and academic probation from the US Admin. Some common forms of cheating have included: 1) Writing your paper on a topic you wrote a paper on last year or in another class; 2) Copying many of the ideas and sources from another student’s paper; 3) Copying many ideas and sources from another paper you find on the internet. If you do any of these 3 things you will receive a ‘0’ and need to discuss it with the US Admin. So for starters, do NOT choose any topic of anything similar to any paper you wrote in 9th or 10th grade history class, or any class you have ever taken!

**Here is the process of this research paper:**

**1st Semester (10% overall grade)**

1. Find your topic
2. Find your research question
3. Find sources you will read and use in your paper.
4. Complete your **annotated bibliography with 9 sources.**

**2nd Semester (20% overall grade)**

1. Start reading all the sources you already found (& will still find and take notes on them
2. Organize and **outline** your paper due **February 25th.**
3. Write a **rough draft** of your paper due **March 16th**
4. Write the **final draft** of your paper due **April 1st.**

**Let's Get Started on This Worksheet due by next class for 10 points:**

**Open up a Word Doc or Google Doc you can upload to Canvas before next class. Call it “Research Paper Day One Worksheet” Write your answers to the following questions on this document and then upload it to canvas.**

1. Open my website **Week 1 Sample A+ Student Paper**

**-Just skim over this paper for 1 minute and write 1 observation you have of why maybe this paper got an A+ grade?**

1. Open my website **Week 1 Sample Student Paper Topics**

**-Just skim over this list for 1 minute only and then write here 1 interesting topic you found:**

1. On my website open and read ***"Week 1 Traditional List of US History Topics I and II"***

***-Just skim over these lists for 1 minute only and then write here 1 interesting topic you found:***

1. Open up the textbook *The Americans.* Open to the Table of Contents at the start (pages vi to xiv). Take a few minutes to read over the Table of Contents for every main topic in our textbook.

- Also look at the Special Features (right after the Table of Contents- pages xv to xix). Take a few moments and look over the topics and people on these pages.

**(Note: If you are at home then skim over the Table of Contents in our blue book “America: A Narrative History” we keep at home instead. It is pages ix to xv at the start)**

**Write down** 1 or 2 (or more) topics that interest you from these pages:

1. My best advice to you (not only for this research paper but almost all your research papers) is to find 1 great book you will be interested to read. This will form the backbone of your research paper. Also, you can look at this book's sources to help you find more additional sources you can find and possibly use too! What happens a lot of times is that you will find a more specific topic- or source- from this 1 book that will eventually become your new and more-focused- research topic, which is great.

So let's look at some "Book Lists" for a great book:

Open this website: <https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/290.Best_Non_fiction_American_History_Books>

Take 1 minute only and look over this list of books (note: this list has over 1,000 books so click on "next" at the bottom of each page to continue)

Write down here any books and authors that look interesting to you. Click on a few interesting titles to read more about them. AND look at the similar books suggestions once you click on a book!

**5)Write down at least 1 interesting book and author from this list on your worksheet:**

1. **Now let’s look for some good books and academic articles on the TAS school library website:**

**GO to the TAS Upper School USIC (Upper School Information Commons) Home Page for databases. This link should take you there:** <https://usic.tas.edu.tw/databases>

1. **In the search bar at the top next to “Discovery Search” put in some possible topics you are interested in.**

**-After you click search see what results come up**

**-Then on the left-hand side of the screen click on the little box next to “Books” so it will only show you books on your topic.**

**WRITE ON YOUR WORKSHEET NOW AT LEAST 2 BOOKS THAT YOU FIND HERE THAT LOOK INTERESTING.**

1. **Now unclick “Books” and instead click on the little box on the left next to “Academic Journals” so it will only show you academic journal articles on your topic**

**WRITE ON YOUR WORKSHEET NOW AT LEAST 2 ACADEMIC ARTICLES THAT YOU FIND HERE THAT LOOK INTERESTING.**

1. **Now let’s see if we can find any books (and hopefully e-books to download using the Free Amazon Kindle App) on amazon**

**-Go to** [**www.amazon.com**](http://www.amazon.com)

**-In the search bar switch to “BOOKS”**

**-In the search bar now put in the name of some topics you are interested in to see if amazon has any good books on these topics**

**WRITE ON YOUR WORKSHEET AT LEAST 2 INTERESTING BOOKS YOU FOUND ON AMAZON.COM. And tell me if there a kindle version of this book you could possibly download?**

**8)Let's take a minute now and look over all your notes you have written so far. I want you to narrow down your notes to 1 or 2 FINAL POSSIBLE TOPICS. Write your final 1 or 2 POSSIBLE TOPICS ON YOUR WORKSHEET (of course this can-and will- change later, so don’t worry!)**

**Possible Topic #1:**

**Possible Topic #2:**

UPLOAD YOUR WORKSHEET ANSWERS TO THESE 8 QUESTIONS TO CANVAS BEFORE THE NEXT CLASS

THE NEXT STEP IS MR C WILL MEET WITH EACH OF YOU IN PERSON TO DISCUSS YOUR IDEAS AND HOPEFULLY HELP YOU FIND A GOOD TOPIC