

## Language Arts — 8th-Grade Writing Assignment Support

### College Research Paper Guide

**Thesis:** Yes, you do need a thesis: this is a research paper and you are expected to pursue research that will support a thesis or proposition. Your thesis might look something like this:

*Based on research and my proposed major, unique talents, outstanding grades, work needs, and the kinds of extra-curricular and recreational activities in which I am interested, Zanzibar University, located in Timbuktu, Plain of Jupiter, Io, is my best choice for pursuing my undergraduate degree.*

Please note that, in this case, the thesis is a result of doing research: you cannot possibly know which university is best for you until you have actually done the research.

**Research:** The questions below are NOT exhaustive; they are representative. In other words, these questions represent a starting point, and are only suggestions; based on your own goals and needs, you are responsible for coming up with more and better questions than the ones listed. You will need to consider four to six universities, and then narrow those down to two or three that you will *thoroughly* investigate and evaluate. Use these questions along with those you come up with to sort through and evaluate your options. DO NOT simply pick a university you think is “cool” and then try to justify that university as your best choice: DO THE RESEARCH AND THEN DECIDE. You will be asked to provide evidence that you conducted appropriate research for multiple universities, and that you based your conclusions on the research you conducted.

- Where is the university located?
- What amenities are available?
- What recreational activities are available?
- Will the social environment provide opportunities to meet and mingle with others?
- What about employment opportunities?
- How much is the tuition? Books?
- What are the housing costs?
- What other expenses are there?
- What loans, grants, or scholarships might be available to me?
- What are the entrance requirements?
- What is the timeline for applying?
- What special tests or exams might be required?
- What degrees are offered?
- How long will it take to acquire a degree?
- What classes will I need to take?
- Should I consider a minor?
- Should I consider earning a master's degree at the same time? Why? Why not?
- What extra-curricular activities are available?
- In which extra-curricular activities am I most interested?
- Which ones will fill fulfill my needs? How?
- How do I get involved with these activities?
- Why is this university a good choice?
- How would you feel if you were accepted into this university?