

Language Arts — 8th-Grade Writing Assignment Research Paper

Objective: Students will be able to write an effective, thesis-driven research paper using primary and secondary resources. (Standards W2.3, W2.4)

Prompt 1: In four short years you will be contemplating your first year in college — so it's not too late to begin thinking now about where you might attend college and why. You are to gather information about where you might attend college and why, including academic data such as program offerings, specialties, entrance requirements, and rankings; be sure to look at all of the information through the lens of your own interests and goals. All of this information and more will be required in order to formulate and support your thesis. A [form](#) has been provided to help you write your thesis and gather the information you will need.

Prompt 2: Formulate a hypothesis related to an area of study in your science class and research your hypothesis. Your research may include any experiments you perform as part of your research.

Thesis Examples: The asteroid belt poses a very real risk to Earth for which we should and can prepare.

Gravity bends space and time.

As certain life forms in the deep oceans have demonstrated, the sun's energy is not necessary for the existence of life on Earth.

Prompt 3: Formulate a thesis related to an area of study in your history class and research your thesis. Your research must include at least two primary sources.

Thesis Examples: The Bill of Rights was critical to the ratification of the United States Constitution.

The modern interpretation of the church-state relationship is inconsistent with what the Framers envisioned.

Slavery was the primary, root cause of the American Civil War.

Assignment: Be sure to write to only one specific prompt; you must also formulate your own properly-constructed thesis and support your thesis with specific details, examples, explanations, observation, and good reasons. Sources must be properly cited, using a citations page. This assignment is due on _____.

Specs:

- Format:** Standard Composition
- Margins:** 1 inch, top, bottom, left, right
- Alignment:** Left or fully justified
- Indents:** .5 inches for paragraphs
- Line Spacing:** 1.5 or double
- Font:** Times New Roman, Arial; 11- or 12-pt.
- Title:** YES
- Turn in all parts of process:** YES

- Citations Page:** YES
- Name, period, date placement:** Upper right corner
- Name, period, date line spacing:** Single
- Illustrations / pictures:** Required, 2 minimum
- Extra space between paragraphs:** NO
- Save copies on your flash drive:** YES
- Title Specs:** Assigned fonts; 14- or 16-pt.; centered
- Title Note:** 1 or 2 blank lines between title and body
- How to turn in:** Hard copies only