**The Research Project: Learning Contract**

All Language and Composition students will complete a research project as part of our writing curriculum. During the research project, you will be developing higher-order thinking skills, such as problem solving and analytical thinking that will help you succeed in personal, academic, and business pursuits.

Clearly, this is an important project and one that is to be taken seriously by all of us. The research project is nothing to be afraid of, but it does take patience and hard work – which is what this contract is about. We all deserve to work in the best possible learning environment. Please read the following expectations with your parents and sign it.

**Classroom conduct:** Our time for research is limited. It is to be spent on the gathering, exploring, and organizing of data – not on socializing, other schoolwork, or entertainment. All students should conduct themselves maturely by speaking quietly, treating the classroom and its inhabitants with all due respect, and not wasting time.

**Deadlines:** You will have all due dates in plenty of time to complete the various assignments. All deadlines are to be met. No questions. You may turn in assignments early, but no late work will receive points. Again, you may not turn in late work for credit. **No late research papers will be accepted.**

**Effort:** You are expected to put your best effort for the next several weeks. You are responsible for deadlines and for following directions. The work you turn in should be no one’s but your own.

**Resources:** You are expected and encouraged to use all your sources wisely. If you have problems or questions, don’t hesitate to see me about them immediately. I am available during class and at lunch. Wise and successful people draw on the knowledge and experience of those around them.

**Consequences:** If you choose to violate the contract, you may receive a detention, lose research or internet privileges, or lose points on certain parts of your project.

Project Requirements:

1. Topic selection/learning contract with signatures
2. Various spot checks on portions of the project
3. Minimum of 5-7 source cards
4. Minimum of 25-30 note cards
5. Working outline
6. Approved thesis statement and topic sentences
7. Formal outline
8. First rough draft with parenthetical documentation
9. Final draft with works cited page in final format (must have 5 sources used within paper)
10. Title page properly formatted

**Deadlines**:

Friday, November 11: Contract due with your selected topic (signed by student and parent) – 5 points

Tuesday, November 15: 1 Source Card and 1 Note Card (properly formatted) in class assignment – 5 points

Tuesday, November 15: Working outline (end of the hour) – 5 points

Thursday, November 17: Thesis statement due (beginning of the hour) – 5 points

Tuesday, November 22: 5-7 source cards, properly formatted – 10 points

Tuesday, November 29: 25-30 note cards, properly formatted – 15 points

Friday, December 2: Rough Draft including parenthetical documentation – 25 points

Tuesday, December 6: Formal Outline – 15 points

Thursday, December 8: Bibliography – 15 points

Friday, December 16: Final Drafts (organized in envelops) receiving extra credit due (Extra Credit 20+ points)

Exam Day: All Final Drafts Due – 100 points

Topic I plan to research: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read all of the above and agree to conduct myself according to the expectations that are outlined here.

Student’s signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read all of the above and support my child’s signing it.

Parent/guardian’s signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This project will count for all your points for the last five weeks of Language and Composition. It will be extremely difficult to pass 2nd Quarter Language and Composition without successfully completing a research project. The points for the project are broken down as follows:

1. Prewriting portion and end notes 75 points
2. The first draft 25 points
3. The final draft 100 points

Total 200 points