

THE FRESHMAN PROJECT

English 1 CP

To start off semester two of English 1 CP, you will be completing a research project. After almost nine full years of school, you have taken a variety of courses and developed an assortment of skills. This project gives you an opportunity to show off your reading, writing, and presentation skills by choosing an area of interest, conducting research, writing about that research, and presenting your writing. The Freshman Project requires you to manage your time well in order to meet deadlines and successfully complete the project.

The Freshman Project is largely based off of the Senior Thesis Warrior Project, which is a semester-long research project completed in English IV CP. In both projects, you get to choose your area of research!

Elements of The Freshman Project

The final Freshman Project will earn you **two major assessment grades**: a portfolio comprised of your work from the whole unit, and a presentation of that work.

Your portfolio documents all the work and time that you have put into your project. It should reflect your “journey” through the process and document all of your work.

Your portfolio will include:

1. Topic Proposal Form
2. Outline (Essay Rough Draft)
3. Presentation Outline
4. Checklists (one completed by you, one completed by your teacher)
5. Final Essay & Works Cited Page
6. Rubrics (to be completed/added by your teacher)

This project will include **two** scholarly sources and research from those sources. (If you wish to have more sources than that, you may.) Your presentation will simply be your Outline/Final Essay broken down into slides. It is your job to use this essay to convince your teacher and this presentation to convince your audience that this topic is interesting and important!

Topic Ideas

(You aren't required to use one of these topics, but hopefully this list helps you brainstorm!)

- Technology/social media makes us feel more alone
- Digital photographs are too plentiful to be meaningful
- Online reviews of products are untrustworthy
- The web filters at school are too restrictive
- TV does not do a good job at capturing diversity
- Rap and R&B music encourage violence
- Violent video games encourage people to be more violent in real life
- Marching band should be considered a sport
- Because football is such a dangerous sport, it should not be televised
- Listening to audiobooks is more beneficial than actual reading
- Graffiti should/should not be considered art
- School is designed more for girls than boys
- Photoshopping photographs should be illegal
- Women should be allowed to fight on the frontlines next to men
- College football players should get paid
- The school day should start earlier/later
- High schoolers need recess
- Breakfast is the most important meal of the day
- The government should limit the size of sugary drinks
- Standardized tests measure students' abilities well
- Our society gives children too many trophies

Remember, topics must be **school appropriate** and approved by your teacher!

Calendar/Due Dates

A calendar covering this entire unit will be handed out separately from this handbook.

If you are absent or leave school early, any and all work is expected the day of your return. The due dates for the presentation and portfolio are fixed and will not be adjusted for absences. The late penalty for both major assessment portions of the Freshman Project is minus one letter grade per day it's late. Homework/classwork that is late will earn up to half credit, as always.

TOPIC SELECTION

The Hardest Part...PICKING A GOOD TOPIC

1. You should choose a topic about which you are interested, but not an expert. The topic must lend itself to the support of an arguable thesis.

2. You should choose a topic that you have not researched in the past.

3. Your topic should be specific enough to be unique, but broad enough to be reasonable. Do not cover too long a time period or too broad an area.

4. Your topic should be challenging both creatively and academically.

5. You will be incorporating research as a part of this grade, so you should choose a topic that is not only presentation-friendly, but also research-friendly.

6. You will have to present your work to the class via a PowerPoint, Prezi, etc. presentation. Your topic must be appropriate for the school environment.

7. Your argument cannot be in the form of a question. For example:

“Is *Harry Potter* really the best book series of all time?” = incorrect format! 🙅

“*Harry Potter* is the best book series of all time.” = correct format! 👍

“Should California rely completely on solar panels for energy?” = incorrect format! 🙅

“California should rely completely on solar panels for cleaner, renewable, more affordable energy.” = correct format! 👍

8. After choosing a topic, but before beginning the project, your topic must be approved by your teacher.

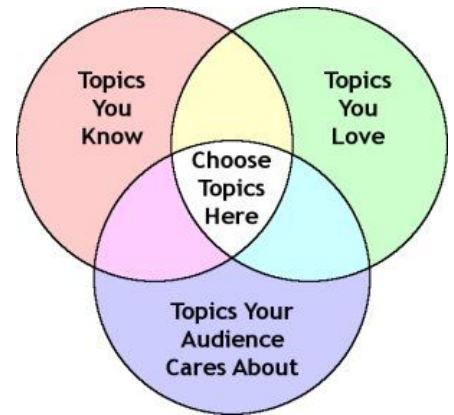
9. Look at the links below if you’re having trouble finding an argumentative topic:

http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/02/05/301-prompts-for-argumentative-writing/?_r=0

<http://www.myspeechclass.com/ideas-for-argumentative-speech-topics.html>

<http://www.2012egnconference.com/4-ways-to-find-argumentative-essay-topics-a-guide>

<http://thecurrentreader.com/tips-on-how-to-find-an-original-argumentative-paper-topic.asp>



BRAINSTORMING



Things about which I am knowledgeable



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Things about which I have strong emotions



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Things in which I believe



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Research Organization

First Source

Who is the author of your first source?

What is the title?

What/who is the publisher?

What is the date the source was published?

Write down one or two sentences/quotes from this source that you could use in your essay.

Second Source

Who is the author of your first source?

What is the title?

What/who is the publisher?

What is the date the source was published?

Write down one or two sentences/quotes from this source that you could use in your essay.

Thesis Statement

A thesis statement is a guide to your paper. It tells the subject matter, your argument, and what the rest of your paper is going to be about. It is always located at the *end* of the first (introduction) paragraph.

Here is the format to use when creating a thesis statements for this project:

_____ **[Argument]** _____ **because** _____ **[reason 1]** _____, **[reason 2]** _____, and _____ **[reason 3]** _____.

Remember, each of the above three reasons will prompt each of your three body paragraphs.

examples:

The *Harry Potter* book series is the best series of all time because it proves to readers that love can conquer hate, it uncovers truths about discrimination, and it encourages people of all ages to read.

The members of the band *The Beatles* created the most influential music of all time by reinventing the genre of rock and roll, using their own life experiences to inspire their lyrics, and using innovative instruments to create a unique, specific sound.

Now it's your turn! Brainstorm your own thesis statement below:

Name: _____

TOPIC PROPOSAL FORM

this is a formal proposal and needs to be approved

1. Topic:

2. My Argument/Thesis (*what do you want to prove - needs to be written as a statement*):

a. body paragraph #1:

b. body paragraph #2:

c. body paragraph #3:

3. What do you already know about this topic?

4. Why are you interested in this topic? Why do you feel strongly about your argument?

5. Do you have both scholarly sources you will need?

-----don't write below this line! -----

Teacher Comments:

_____ Accepted _____ Rejected & Redo

FINDING SCHOLARLY SOURCES

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. For this project, you are required to find and use two scholarly sources.
2. You will use DISCUS and find two these sources to use as support in your essay outline and presentation.
3. Each source must be MLA formatted within your project (in-text citation) and in a Works Cited page.
 - a. ex) Staples, Suzanne Fisher. Under the Persimmon Tree. New York: Square Fish Books, 2005. Print.
 - b. ex) “A large persimmon tree stands in the center of the dusty yard behind the house” (Staples 50).

These sources will assist you in putting together your research paper and your presentation. All sources must be MLA formatted and correctly cited within and on the Works Cited page.

You **must include in-text citations** within your essay outline (see outline template for information).

Any paper without in-text citations (and, thus, is plagiarized) will automatically fail. You must cite for the following reasons:

- You have used a direct quotation from your source.
- You have paraphrased any information that involves someone else’s original thought or research

You **must use MLA** – please see the following if you are confused about MLA:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>

<http://jerz.setonhill.edu/writing/academic1/mla-style-papers/>

How to access DISCUS:

www.wandohigh.com → hover over tab “For Parents & Students” → click Library Media Center → click Databases → scroll down and click DISCUS

Tips:

- Search by subject or grade level
- Search databases A-Z
 - Click on the ? next to the database for more info on it!
- SmartSearch
 - Allows you to search by keyword

* **Passwords** 2017-2018 (you will need these if you are going to do research at home!!!)

- Username: discuss18
- Password: explore

MLA & WORKS CITED EXAMPLES

Catlin 1

Beth Catlin
Professor Elaine Bassett
English 106
3 August 2009

Andrew Carnegie: The Father of Middle-Class America

For decades Americans couldn't help but love the red-headed, fun-loving Little Orphan Annie. The image of the little girl moving so quickly from poverty to wealth provided hope for the poor in the 1930s, and her story continues to be a dream of what the future just might hold.

The rags-to-riches phenomenon is the heart of the American Dream. No one has embodied this phenomenon as much as Andrew Carnegie did in his life. His example and industry caused him to become the father of millionaires.

Andrew Carnegie can be looked to as an ideal example of the American Dream. He went from a boy who worked his way up to become leader of the capitalist world. Carnegie was born into a family in Scotland. According to the PBS documentary "The Rise of Andrew Carnegie," the Industrial Revolution was difficult on Carnegie's family. His father was a weaving business. The Carnegie family was much opposed to the new technology. Carnegie gained their wealth simply by inheritance ("Richest"). This type of inheritance was a major factor in Andrew Carnegie's destiny. In order to appease his mother's wishes for benefits, and perhaps in an effort to heal his father's wounds, Carnegie rejected poverty and cleaved to prosperity.

Carnegie's character was ideal for gaining wealth. His mother taught him to "look after the pennies, and the pounds will take care of themselves;" he later turned this proverb into "watch the costs, and the profits take care of themselves" ("Richest"). Such thrift was integral to his future success. He also believed that "all is well since all goes better" ("Richest"). His theory

Kennedy 7

Works Cited

Gregory, Philippa. *The Other Boleyn Girl*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2007. Print.
Stanley, Sally. "Sabotaging a Child's Education: How Parents Undermine Teachers." *Teacher-Parent Connections*. Disney Learning. 2003. Web. 22 Apr. 2003.
Whitebook, Joel. "The Marriage of Marx and Freud: Critical Theory and Psychoanalysis." *The Cambridge Companion to Critical Theory*. Ed. Fred Rush. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2004. 74-102. Print.
Wingate, Molly. "Writing Centers as Sites of Academic Culture." *Writing Center Journal* 21.2 (2001): 7-20. Print.

<http://www.plagiarism.org/>

PERSUASIVE ESSAY

Persuasive essays allow you to have your say, get your gripes and raves off your chest, and discuss your interests in order to convince your reader to understand and, ideally, agree with your perspective. That's the first point. For this Freshman Project, you will not be writing a full essay, but rather an essay outline. Be sure your topic is something you care strongly enough about to discuss eloquently and passionately. Readers want to know what you know, feel what you feel, and understand where you're coming from before they will be persuaded by your argument. Remember to include rhetorical devices! In this essay outline, you should be making an argument about the topic you intend to further research throughout this project.

I. Introduction Paragraph

- a. Attention Grabber/Hook
- b. Provide sentences to develop your topic further. Basic history and background, its controversial-nature, etc.
- c. Thesis statement (no question marks should be used)

II. Body Paragraph #1

- a. Topic sentence.
- b. Introduce fact/statistic/evidence/quote that relates to topic of BP.
- c. Provide a fact/statistic/evidence/quote. (Remember to cite!)
- d. Explain what type of rhetoric this fact/statistic/evidence/quote shows.
- e. Closing/Transition sentence.

III. Body Paragraph #2

- a. Topic sentence.
- b. Introduce fact/statistic/evidence/quote that relates to topic of BP.
- c. Provide a fact/statistic/evidence/quote. (Remember to cite!)
- d. Explain what type of rhetoric this fact/statistic/evidence/quote shows.
- e. Closing/Transition sentence.

IV. Body Paragraph #3

- a. Topic sentence.
- b. Introduce fact/statistic/evidence/quote that relates to topic of BP.
- c. Provide a fact/statistic/evidence/quote. (Remember to cite!)
- d. Explain what type of rhetoric this fact/statistic/evidence/quote shows.
- e. Closing/Transition sentence.

V. Conclusion

- a. Restate thesis and explain why it is a controversial and a "real-world" issue.
- b. Why is the topic important? What is the significance of it? Why should your reader care?

I. Introduction Paragraph

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

II. Body Paragraph #1

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

_____.

III. Body Paragraph #2

a. _____

_____.

b. _____

_____.

c. _____

_____.

d. _____

_____.

e. _____

_____.

IV. Body Paragraph #3

a. _____

_____.

b. _____

_____.

c. _____

_____.

d. _____

_____.

e. _____

_____.

V. Conclusion

a. _____

_____.

b. _____

_____.

Name: _____

Works Cited

PRESENTATION OUTLINE & SCRIPT

TOP TEN SLIDE TIP

The following is an outline of the MINIMUM number of slides needed for your final presentation. As you create your presentation on Google Slides, PowerPoint, Prezi, etc., simply follow this outline!

1. Title Slide

- Include attention-grabber, Title of Topic, First & Last Name, English I Freshman Project, and Teacher

2. Thesis Slide

-Your thesis sentence with three sub-points listed below

3-5. Sub-points/Body Paragraphs #1, #2, and #3

- Each is clearly labeled with a title; use quotes from sources that are cited correctly; each sub-point should have at least three bullet points describing the sub-point; at least one bullet point should include a rhetorical device

6. Personal Reflection

- What have you learned? Has your opinion on the topic changed?

7. In Conclusion

- What can be done to help or change the situation for the better?

8. Works Cited

- MLA format for all sources used in research

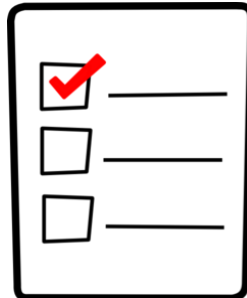
9. Questions and Thank You

Freshman Project Checklist

In order to receive full credit for the **test grade** for the **Portfolio** aspect of the Freshmen Project, you must turn in the following items by Friday, January 26th.

Student Checklist:

- _____ Topic Proposal Form
- _____ Outline (Rough Draft)
- _____ Presentation Outline
- _____ This Checklist (completed by student)
- _____ Final Essay & Works Cited Page
- _____ Rubrics



Teacher Checklist:

- _____ Topic Proposal Form
- _____ Outline (Rough Draft)
- _____ Presentation Outline
- _____ This Checklist (completed by teacher)
- _____ Final Essay & Works Cited Page
- _____ Rubrics

The Freshman Project Portfolio Rubric

Components	/20
- Topic Proposal Form, Outline (Rough Draft), Presentation Outline, Checklist, Final Essay & Works Cited, and rubrics page are all included/have all been turned in	
Essay	/40
- Essay has strong thesis. Thesis statement is at end of intro paragraph. Essay has a compelling introduction, three body paragraphs that include research and rhetorical devices, and a strong conclusion.	
MLA Formatting	/10
- Header and title are correctly formatted. Entire essay is Times New Roman, 12 pt, double-spaced font.	
Works Cited and In-Text Citations	/20
- Works Cited page includes two scholarly sources (or more). WC is in proper format. In-text citations are included and are in proper format.	
Conventions	/10
- Essay uses correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.	
TOTAL	/ 100

Comments:

The Freshman Project Presentation Rubric

	10	8	6	4	2	0
Title	Slide includes all required information; attention-grabber is effective		Slide includes some required information; attention-grabber could be more effective		Slide is missing all but one or two required pieces of information; attention-grabber is ineffective	No title slide
Thesis	Slide includes all required information in correct format		Slide includes all required information, but is not in correct format		Slide does not include required information	No thesis slide
BP #1	Slide includes subpoint/topic and at least 3 bullet points: research, rhetorical device, and another		Slide includes subpoint/topic but does not contain required 3 bullet points		Slide contains little to none of the required information and/or is not presented in viewer-friendly format	No BP #1 slide
BP #2	Slide includes subpoint/topic and at least 3 bullet points: research, rhetorical device, and another		Slide includes subpoint/topic but does not contain required 3 bullet points		Slide contains little to none of the required information and/or is not presented in viewer-friendly format	No BP #2 slide
BP #3	Slide includes subpoint/topic and at least 3 bullet points: research, rhetorical device, and another		Slide includes subpoint/topic but does not contain required 3 bullet points		Slide contains little to none of the required information and/or is not presented in viewer-friendly format	No BP #3 slide
Personal Reflection	Slide fully answers reflection questions and/or has relevant information		Slide only partially answers both required questions and/or answers only one question		Slide does not answer required questions and/or does not contain required information	No personal reflection slide
Conclusion	Slide answers required question and/or has relevant information		Slide only partially answers required question and/or contains only partially relevant information		Slide does not answer required question and/or does not contain relevant information	No conclusion slide
Works Cited	Works Cited slide is included and is formatted properly		Works Cited slide is included, but both sources are not properly formatted and/or slide only has one properly formatted source		Slide is included but does not have properly formatted sources	No Works Cited slide
In-text Citations	In-text citations are used and properly formatted		In-text citations are used, but are not properly formatted		In-text citations are used intermittently and are not properly formatted	No in-text citations
Aesthetic Grammar Mechanics Spelling	Presentation is aesthetically pleasing; grammar, mechanics, and spelling are all correct		Presentation could be more aesthetically pleasing; some grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling is distractingly incorrect		Presentation is not aesthetically pleasing; grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling are distractingly incorrect	Little to no attempt was made to make presentation aesthetically pleasing; grammar, mechanics,

Name: _____

						and/or spelling are very incorrect
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