Inquiry Project: The Influence of Media

Inquiry (n.): an official effort to collect and examine information about something; the act of asking questions in order to gather or collect information

Media (n.): the systems and organizations of communication through which information is spread to a large number of people

What is required for this assignment?

Process Overview:
How does the media impact your life and society as a whole? You will spend the next month investigating how the media influences society, deciding on the best way to organize your research and research paper, and synthesizing a wide variety of credible sources to make your argument and present your findings.

- The information below will provide you with the guidelines for the purpose and process of this Inquiry Project.
- The major components of the project include a Project Proposal, Outline, Rough Draft, and a culminating Research Paper.

Paper Guidelines:
- Length:
  AP: 9-10 pages typed, MLA
  Non-AP: 7-8 pages typed, MLA

- Sources:
  AP: 5-6 Works-Cited, 8-10 Works-Consulted
  Non-AP: 4-5 Works-Cited, 6-8 Works-Consulted
  Scholarly journals, magazines,* and library databases
  *Examples of magazines you can use include: Time, Newsweek, The New Yorker, etc.

- 12 pt., Times New Roman, double-spaced, MLA format and citations
  http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/
  http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_s2.html

  ➢ Refer to the MLA handout and the CRB Planner

Required Materials:
- Handouts & Research Packet
- Paper, pens, planner (remember these every day!)
- Optional: USB flash drive (about $8); BPL Library Card
Why should I undertake this level of work?

Your first college classes are a few months away, and almost all core courses and majors demand proficiency in research and writing skills. You will practice and refine your ability to locate, evaluate, use, and cite primary and secondary sources. Finally, in speaking and writing, you will present an effective analysis and synthesis of ideas. Throughout the process, your demonstration of self-guidance and time-management will help you be successful. The skills you learn and develop throughout this process will be invaluable to you and your success next year – just ask past seniors! Most importantly, you are currently woven into the fabric of our ever-changing society, and this project will shape your understanding of the media’s role in your life so that you can continue to become critical consumers of the world around you.

The Topic

The topic should involve the media’s influence on individuals or society. Secondly, your topic should be personally fascinating, controversial, or significant. Our world is full of obvious and subtle reminders of the changes that the media has triggered in our daily life. Are these media-induced changes beneficial to our society? What are their implications?

We will do brainstorming for your topic together in class, but you should consider a relationship between an aspect of the media and society, by filling in two of the words from the chart.

- What impact does _________________ have on _________________?

Steps of the Process & Guidelines

1. Brainstorm a topic related to the media and phrase it as a question.
2. Complete preliminary research to familiarize yourself with your research topic and immerse yourself in the writing done about your topic.
3. Complete a Questioning Technique Process in small groups to generate research questions.
4. Craft a proposal.
5. Research, research, research! Record citations, quotations, facts, and information from valuable sources on a notecard and complete source dialogues as required on calendar.
6. Organize research and complete outline for final research paper.
7. Write draft of your research paper.
8. Revise, complete, and print final research paper.

The Final Inquiry Paper is due Monday, December 14th.

(200-point test grade will go into Term 2)

➢ Refer to the calendar for deadlines for all the stages of the Inquiry Project:
  - Proposal, note-cards, source-dialogues, outline, rough draft, and final paper
  - The calendar will be a useful tool to prepare for your own planning.
  - The layout of our week will include time to research, read, and write in the library every week of the unit. This will typically involve finding articles, and then sitting at tables to silently read and annotate your sources.
  - Every Wednesday students who have missed a research deadline will be required to stay after school to make up the work that has been missed.
Inquiry Project Guidelines

**Unit V**

Name: _____________________________                                     Date: _______________

- You will receive consistent written and oral feedback. Oral feedback will take the role of writing conferences (between individual students and the teacher). Every time that a source dialogue is due, a conversation will be held to discuss the quality of sources and dialogue.

- You will be given scheduled time to revise. As a class, in pairs, and as individuals, you will be given guidance and time to make meaningful revisions to your writing.

**Inquiry Project Expectations:**

a. Be prepared every day with all of your materials (binder, USB drive, articles, etc.)

b. You must bring all completed work on time. Failure to do so will require you to stay after school every Wednesday to finish it and meet the deadlines. Should you fall behind at any point, a call to parents and a meeting with an administrator will be made. Please note that failure to complete the research paper will jeopardize your ability to graduate.

c. Your inquiry project reflects your own original ideas and work. There is zero-tolerance for plagiarism. Refer to the student handbook for the policy about academic integrity.

**Standards for Unit 3: Conduct Sustained Research to Answer a Question**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>What This Standard Means</th>
<th>Where/When Will This Standard Be Assessed?</th>
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| Narrow or broaden area of inquiry when appropriate to present a fair and balanced research paper | You can make decisions about the scope of your topic, prioritizing depth rather than breadth. You do not ignore information or sources that challenge your argument, but rather seek them out and use them to strengthen your argument. | 1. Preliminary Research  
2. Research Proposal  
3. Throughout Research Process |
| Assess the strengths and limitations of each source, especially in terms of the task, purpose, and audience | You can identify strengths and limitations of a source, and can identify sources and perspectives that you need to strengthen and fill out your argument. You choose reliable, credible sources that are appropriate for the task, purpose, and audience. | 1. Selection of Sources for Source Dialogues  
2. Completion of Source Dialogues |
| Synthesize multiple sources on the area of inquiry, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation | You read carefully and annotate each source so that you fully understand what is being said in the source. You identify the comparisons and contrasts across sources, and combine the ideas of multiple sources to support a new, unique argument. | 1. Completion of Source Dialogue  
2. Outline  
3. Research Paper Drafts |