**Subject area/course**: English/Language Arts

**Grade level/band**: 11

**Task source**: New Hampshire Task Bank

**Junior Research Paper**

**STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Task context**:

The Junior Research Paper is a unique opportunity to identify and explore a topic that interests you. This is your chance to explore anything from the effects of an interconnected world economy, to gender inequality in the Middle East, to plans for sending humans to Mars. You will select a global issue, craft an essential question to guide you through the process, and construct a thesis-driven research paper. Remember, this is a chance to expand your previous interests or discover a new passion.

**Why Research?** Research can be defined simply as seeking out information and analyzing it. If you have searched online for movie times, or read reviews about a new pair of headphones, you have done research. Scholars do research for a variety of reasons. In general, though, scholars conduct research in order to answer a question, to satisfy their curiosity, to build understanding, and to effectively communicate their findings to an audience.

**Your Goal:** As a scholar in English and social studies, your goal is to draw fair and unbiased conclusions from your exploration of a question. It means studying information from credible sources, supporting your conclusions with strong and thorough evidence, and sharing your findings with an audience in a logical, clear, and convincing way.

1. **Final product**:

Write a five- to eight-page argumentative paper that addresses an essential question with global significance.

Your paper should include:

* An introduction with an arguable and credible thesis
* Body paragraphs with supporting evidence and analysis
* A conclusion that revisits thesis and key points, and leaves the reader with next steps, questions and/or final insights
* A Works Cited page (MLA format). A Works Cited page is a list that contains both consulted and cited sources.

**Additional Information**

1. **Materials needed:**

A minimum of SIX different sources cited with in-text citations (parenthetical/MLA format).

* The 6 required cited sources should be used as evidence, not background information.
* Encyclopedias do not count toward the 6 required cited sources.
* Encyclopedias/Wikipedia should be cited and used for background information only.
* All information that wouldn’t be considered common knowledge should be cited.

1. **Time requirements:**

Use the following checkpoints as assigned by your teacher.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Checkpoints** | **Due Date** |
| * Topic |  |
| * Source check #1 – with source validation |  |
| * Essential Question |  |
| * Source check #2 – with source validation |  |
| * Outline/Blueprint of paper with thesis |  |
| * Complete 1st draft |  |
| * Writing Conference |  |
| * Final Essay |  |

1. **Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the Researched Writing Rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.