

Research Paper 9th Grade

Spain Park High School

Ms. Caston-Smith—
February 1, 2008

Student Name _____

The Big Picture

The topic of the 9th grade research paper is a young adult author. You will be looking in the novel and in other research to find evidence of

- 1) Biographical information on the author
- 2) Social Issues in his/her writing as a whole
- 3) Theme of the novel

These topics will make up your three body paragraphs.

- 1) The biographical information should include significant events in the author's life and his/her influences and obstacles. You can find this information in the reference and biography sections and in online periodicals and scholarly journals. Highlight these in GREEN.

- 2) The social issues section must focus on which social issues the author usually writes about. You should address the novel you are reading and some of his/her other well-known novels. You will find this information in the reference and biography sections, in online periodicals and scholarly journals, AND in your novel. Highlight these in BLUE.



- 3) Identifying the theme of your novel can be difficult since most works of fiction have several themes, but you will develop your opinions as you continue to read. You must finish the novel to be certain the theme you have chosen is the most important theme of the novel. This evidence can only be found in the novel, but you can use other sources to help give you ideas. Then locate evidence only in the novel. Highlight these in PINK.

Come back to this page as we start the research process and reread these three topics often. It will help keep you on-track.

Special points of interest:

- Bring **ALL** the materials and the novel each and every day!
- Remember your focus: biographical info (author's life), social issues in the books as a whole, and theme in your chosen novel.
- You need to bring your \$\$\$ every day to make copies of the reference books, the novel, and to print from the online sources.

Where Will We Be?	
Classroom	2/4-5
Library Lab & Ref.	2/6-8
Classroom	2/11
Library Lab	2/12-14
Classroom	2/15
Inclement	2/18
Classroom	2/19-29

Materials Needed: Due 2/4

_____/10 pts

- Young Adult novel—see page 2 for list of authors to choose from (2pts)
- One gallon Ziploc bag
- Something to save to: a jump/flash drive is best
- One quart Ziploc bag
- Accordion folder
- \$5 in change
- 25 lined 3 X 5 index cards
- Post-Its average size, any color
- 10-15 paper clips
- Three highlighters: BLUE, GREEN, & PINK

Author's name

Book Name

Parent Signature
(2pts)

- Due Dates:**
- 2/4 Materials
 - 2/11 Novel Notes & Bib
 - 2/11 Ref. Notes & 2 Bib
 - 2/13-14 More Novel Notes
 - 2/15 Elec. Notes & 2 Bib
 - 2/20-21 Outline
 - 2/26 1st Draft
 - 2/29 Final Draft

Young Adult Authors

Anderson, Laurie Halse
 Adams, Douglas
 Avi
 Barron, T.A.
 Bloor, Edward
 Brashares, Ann
 Blume, Judy
 Cabot, Meg
 Card, Orson Scott
 Colfer, Eoin
 Conford, Ellen
 Cooney, Caroline B.
 Cormier, Robert
 Crutcher, Chris
 Curtis, Christopher Paul
 Cushman, Karen
 Danziger, Paula
 Dessen, Sarah
 Draper, Sharon
 Duncan, Lois
 Dygard, Thomas J.
 Farmer, Nancy
 Guy, Rosa
 Hesse, Karen
 Hinton, S.E.
 Hobbs, Will
 Hoffman, Alice
 Jacques, Brian
 Johnson, Angela
 Korman, Gordon
 Lewis, C. S.
 Lipsyte, Robert
 Lowry, Lois
 Mazer, Norman Fox
 McDaniel, Lurlene
 Myers, Walter Dean
 Naylor Phyllis Reynolds
 Nix, Garth
 Nixon, Joan Lowery
 Nolan, Han
 Paulsen, Gary
 Peck, Richard
 Peck, Robert Newton
 Rowling, J. K.
 Rinaldi, Ann
 Rylant, Cynthia
 Sachar, Louis
 Soto, Gary
 Spinelli, Jerry
 Stein, R. L.
 Taylor, Theodore
 Tolan, Stephanie
 Voigt, Cynthia
 Wolff, Virginia Euwer
 Zindel, Paul

Novel Bib Card and 5 Notes

From 2/1 to 2/14 you will be doing several things at once. You need to make a bib card for your novel and find at least 10 notes on the theme of the novel or a social issue the author frequently writes about. I will check the first five notes and the bib card on 2/11.

When you find evidence in the novel, stick a Post-It on the page and label it to identify whether it is a theme or a social issue note.

Either at home or in the library, copy the pages that show evidence of theme or social issue. Highlight the short passage in BLUE for social issue or PINK for theme. In the margins of the copy write a short note explaining how this is evidence of the theme or social issue.

You will be graded on the quality of your notes and highlighted passages.

Due 2/11 _____/ 15 Points

I will also check your bib card for accuracy, so make sure you follow all directions when writing the information on the index card.

I will check later for more notes from the novel, but at this point, you just need to have the following:

- Bib card for novel (5 pts)
- 5 notes from highlighted sections of novel (10 pts)

Reference & Biography 2 Bib Cards & 5 Notes

From 2/6 through 2/8, we will be in the library using the lab and the reference section to find print sources. This includes encyclopedias like Britannica, other reference sources, and biographies. The librarians will show you how to use the computer to find print sources.

From the computer information, you will make a list of sources to find. Then you can go to the reference and biogra-

phy sections to locate particular books.

At the front of the book, copy the title page and the page after the title page. Copy the first page of an article, the last page, and any pages with content you think you will need.

Remember that in these books you are looking for information on the author's life (GREEN) and information on the social issues



Use the right color highlighter!

Due 2/11 _____/20 Points

the author usually writes about (BLUE).

Highlight the short passages in the right color and make notes in the margins of the copied pages.

- 2 Bib cards ref. or biography (10 pts)
- 5 notes from highlighted sections of reference copies or biography copies (10 pts)

Biography—GREEN

Social Issues—BLUE

Theme—PINK

Always copy the title page and get the date of publication.

5 More Novel Notes (5 old + 5 new = 10 total)

Now that you have some idea of what the other resources say, you can get a clearer picture of what you should be looking for in the novel. Remember to look for evidence of the theme of the novel and possibly one of the social issues that this author often writes about.

You will have to show me the old notes AND the new notes so I can see that you have added to your collection.

Again, Post-It the passages, copy the pages, highlight short passages in BLUE (social issue) or PINK (theme), and make notes.

Due 2/13 & 2/14 _____/10 Points

The notes will help you when you start outlining and writing the paper.

- 5 Old novel notes
- 5 New novel notes (10 pts)

Electronic Sources 2 Bib Cards 10 Note Cards

The librarians will instruct you on how to use the online databases to find good, reliable sources. Take notes and listen carefully. You will need to know a lot of this information next year.

You are looking for information on the author's life (GREEN) for the first body paragraph and evidence of the

social issues the author writes about (BLUE) for the second body paragraph.

Mr. Yates and Mrs. Utz will show you many different databases to use in your search for this information. It is up to you to keep up with the valuable information they give you.

When you find articles that

Due 2/15 _____/30 Points

you think will meet your needs, copy and paste the article and the web address into a word document. Then print, highlight, and make notes on the passages.

- 2 Bib Cards— electronic sources (10 pts)
- 10 notes from highlighted sections of online sources



You can access all the library databases from home by using your AVL card.

Double Check Everything

Before we leave the library, make sure you have every single source you need. Too often students think a source is going to work, but then they discover that the information is not useful.

I don't want you to have to go back to the library on your own time, but you may have to do it if you missed something.

The biggest problem I usually see is that students do not have the information they need to cite the source. Always copy the title page and the page after the title page on any book.

With online sources, it can be even trickier. You've got to make sure you have the URL (web address) before you leave the site.

Outlining Organizing all 5 paragraphs

After the research is done, you can really plan how you are going to use the evidence you have gathered. The evidence and your thoughts are the building blocks of the entire paper.

I will give you a printed outline. The purpose of the outline is to help you stay on track and organize, but it is also supposed to teach you how to use an outline next year.

No one will give you an outline after your 9th grade year, so

make sure you understand how to create and use it for organizing and planning.

First, sort your evidence into the three categories:

- 1) Biographical information
- 2) Social Issues the author writes about
- 3) Theme of this novel

Second, organize each category into the order that makes the most sense. You are organizing the order of the paragraphs when you do this.

Due 2/20 & 2/21 _____/25 Points

Third, write your evidence and citations in pencil in the proper places in the outline.

Fourth, write topic sentences, sub-points, and commentary.

Fifth, Plan your transitions between paragraphs and within paragraphs.

Sixth, write the introduction and conclusion.

- Outline with 5 main sections - intro, 3 body paragraphs, conclusion (5 pts each par)

You **MUST** put a citation for each piece of evidence in your **outline**

Introduction—Attention grabber, general info on the author's life (date and place of birth, honors & awards), key points, & thesis statement.

Conclusion—Restate thesis, summarize body paragraphs, general info on author (date and cause of death, current residence -if living), make a recommendation for other readers.

Writing the 1st Draft

Take the outline as the rough skeleton of your paper. When you write the first draft, this is the time for you to think about how ideas work together.

Build each paragraph and think about the flow within the paragraphs and between each of the paragraphs.

Use formal language—No "You" or "I" or "my paper."

Only use past tense when you talk about things that happened in the author's life, not things from the book.

Don't forget your citations! You must have them after each piece of

evidence.

Don't use contractions like can't or won't. Write cannot or will not.

Do your best!

- 1st Draft—five paragraphs (7 pts each)

Due 2/26 _____/35 Points

February 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Start reading the novel	2
3	4 Materials & Novel due	5	6 Library Lab & Ref.	7 Library Lab & Ref.	8 Library Lab & Ref.	9
10	11 Novel Bib Card & 5 notes due Reference 2 bib cards & 5 notes	12 Library Lab	13 Novel notes due 5 more Library Lab	14 Novel notes due 5 more Library Lab	15 Electronic—2 bib cards, 10 notes due	16
17	18 Inclement Weather Day	19	20 Outline due	21 Outline due	22	23
24	25	26 1st Draft due	27	28	29 Final Draft due	

Final Draft Typed Draft with Works Cited Page _____/200 Points

Use proper formatting:

- 1 inch margins
- Double-space all
- Times New Roman 12 font
- No extra spaces between paragraphs or before or after the title
- Do not bold, italicize, underline, or enlarge the title (Times 12)
- To add the page number to the top right, use the Header feature
- The Works Cited page is the last page & is part of the paper, not a separate document

Read it one last time to eliminate 1st & 2nd person, contractions, and other informal language.

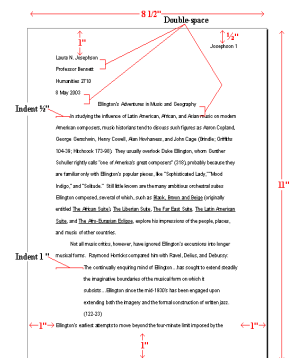
Look again at your tenses. Remember to stay in present tense except when writing about the author's life.

You will **email the research paper to me**. You must save it as a Word document first. Then email it as an attachment. I can show you how to do it.

See the rubric for specific grading criteria.

- A typed five-paragraph essay with works cited page
- The first draft
- The outline
- The entire research packet

This draft is worth 200 points, so take great care in checking your spelling, punctuation, and grammar.



Use formal language, avoid slang and contractions. Don't use "I" or "you."