

**THE FRESHMEN 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 Freshmen Project requires you to manage your time well in order to meet deadlines and successfully complete the project.

The Freshmen 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 Freshmen Project**

The final Freshmen 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 will include hard copies of everything! Your presentation must be emailed/electronic!\*\***

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 Rough Draft
3. Presentation Outline Draft
4. Checklist (to be completed by Ms. Hall)
5. Final Outline & Works Cited Page
6. Rubrics (to be completed/added by Ms. Hall)

Your Outline will be outlining an argumentative paper. It will include two scholarly sources and research from those sources. Your presentation will simply be your Outline broken down into slides. It is your job to use this presentation to convince your audience this topic is interesting and important!

**Topic Ideas**

* 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 encourages violence in children
* Violent video games encourage people to be more violent in real life
* Marching band should be considered a sport
* Listening to audiobooks is more beneficial than actual reading
* Graffiti should never 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 later
* High schoolers need recess
* Breakfast is the most important meal of the day
* The government should limit the size of sugary drinks

Remember, topics must be school appropriate and approved by Ms. Hall!

**Calendar/Due Dates**

January 19th: Brainstorm, go over rubric, example projects

January 20th: MLA Notes and Information

January 23rd: Rhetoric Practice and Notes

January 24th: DISCUS Crash Course; brainstorming time

January 25th-26th: Computer Lab: research time; topic proposal form

January 27th: Topic proposal form due for check; rough draft of outline work

January 30th: Computer Lab: type up rough draft of outline and Works Cited

January 31st: Presentation outline work; evidence of work due for grade

February 1st: Computer Lab: Presentation work

February 2nd-3rd: Prep time

February 3rd: Quiz on MLA and Rhetoric

February 6th: Final Portfolio due (hard copy); Presentation due (emailed to Ms. Hall)

**If you are absent or leave school early, any and all work is expected the day of your return. The late penalty for both major assessment portions of the Freshmen Project is -10 points per day it’s late.**

**PRESENTATION OUTLINE & SCRIPT**

[TOP TEN SLIDE TIP](http://www.garrreynolds.com/preso-tips/design/)

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 Freshmen 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

**PERSUASIVE ESSAY OUTLINE**

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 Freshmen 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.

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.

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.

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?

**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>