

Honors Junior Research Paper

Overview

You will write a 1000-1500 word paper on one of the topics below. It must have a minimum of three quotes from literary texts and also must use at least three secondary sources. These secondary sources must come from the Alabama Virtual Library.

Thesis Statements

We will go over your preliminary thesis statements (made last semester) and determine where you need to go from here. The topic should be grounded in the literature we've read so far and somehow connected to the idea of the American Dream.

Once you complete your preliminary statement, you will work on your working outline.

PRELIMINARY THESIS STATEMENT (N.)- Your first attempt at a thesis in preparation for a better one as you complete your research.

Preparing the Working Outline

The working outline is an initial method of organization and a starting point for note taking. The purpose of the working outline is to prevent you from taking unnecessary notes and to keep you focused and on-task.

In order to develop a working outline, it is necessary to break down the elements of your preliminary thesis and to analyze the specific areas the research will address. This analysis should result in a list of **three to six ideas or topics** that will constitute the divisions of the research.

A working outline should

- relate directly to the thesis
- be **brief** and **clear**
- list the main topics using **Roman numerals**. These headings will later be the "slugs" on the note cards
- **not be subdivided**, unlike the Formal Outline, which is discussed later
- **not** contain sections for the *Introduction* or *Conclusion*
- **not** contain articles or any repeated, unnecessary words.

Example 1:

Thesis: Beowulf is an example of an Anglo-Saxon hero because he represents the ideals of his society.

- I. Physical strength
- II. Leadership
- III. Reverence for God
- IV. Bravery

Example 2:

Thesis: Female characters in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s novels and short stories use their good looks and wealth to manipulate others because they are bored.

- I. Judy Jones (“Winter Dreams”)
- II. Daisy Buchanan (*The Great Gatsby*)
- III. Hildegard Moncrieff (“The Curious Case of Benjamin Button”)
- IV. Marjorie (In “Bernice Bobs Her Hair”)

Complete this working outline:

Thesis: _____

- I. _____
- II. _____
- III. _____
- *IV. _____
- *V. _____
- *VI. _____

You must have 3-6 main sections of your paper—no more, no less!

Complete this worksheet and bring it to class on _____.

Major Due Dates

Working Outlines: 1/15/15

Annotated Bibliography: 2/19/15

Sentence Outline: 3/13/15

Final Draft: 3/17/15