

The Research Paper: Subjects of Controversy

“When a thing ceases to be a subject of controversy, it ceases to be a subject of interest.”
—William Hazlitt

Directions: Why are certain texts provocative or controversial, raising issues that invite further exploration? What are the controversial issues raised by the texts, and how can they best be explored? The research paper provides an opportunity for you to investigate an issue raised by the text you are reading that continues to be controversial and interesting to you. After discussing topics related to the text and considering how to transform them into researchable issues, either select one of the issues on the Researchable Issues resource or develop your own question about a researchable issue. Over the next several weeks, you will research the issue, synthesize information, and write a research paper that presents the complexities of the issue.

SOURCES TO BE USED

Print: Books, Magazines, Periodicals

WebSites: Online resources

Personal Interviews

Media: Videos, CDs, DVDs, Video-stream

All sources must be properly documented, following MLA guidelines, using parenthetical documentation and including a Works Cited page with a minimum of five sources.

SCHEDULE

- _____ Selection of Issue
- _____ Proposal to Literature Circle
- _____ Revised Proposal to Teacher
- _____ Preliminary Research and Bibliography
- _____ Note Cards
- _____ Planning Sheet or Outline
- _____ First Draft
- _____ Peer Review
- _____ Works Cited Page
- _____ Completed Research Paper