**The Sophomore Project**

**Purpose:** To compile research concerning a given topic and develop a thesis driven essay defining/proving the topic’simpact on some aspect of European culture. *This paper will not just be an informational report.*

You must argue how your topic is historically significant and prove that argument with concrete factual support.

\*You will have some library and lab time during class, but you will also need to work on it outside of school. \*

**Directions**: Pick any topic from the last 1,000 years, complete authentic research, and write a 4-5 page paper.

1. → Peruse the list of suggested topics (textbook, web, etc., to find a topic of interest to you)
2. → Research and formulate a relevant research question.
3. → Construct a thesis *(after researching).*
4. → Do more research and compile note cards from at *least 6 sources.*
5. → Create a thorough pre-write out of your research in a 3-level outline.
6. → Finally, write the paper.

**Detailed Directions:**

1. **Find a topic, do some research and create a research question** on anything that has taken place in European history over the last 1,000 years. You can research something we have done in class, something we will do in class, or something we may never get to in class. *If your topic is not on the suggested list, you will need to get it approved before you begin more in-depth research.*

2. **Begin the process of taking formal notes with note cards and source cards**. Since this research will span a period of many weeks, you will need to keep track of your work in a formal manner. Each time you work, put your notes and source info on note cards, either physical note cards or online note cards (see #4 below).

3. **Write a working thesis** based on the initial research you have collected. Remember: research question drives the research, research drives the thesis. Therefore, throughout the course of the research and writing process you will revise your thesis to match your research.

4. **Continue formal note taking**: by the end *at least* 50 correctly formatted note cards and at least six source cards.

* None of these sources may be Wikipedia or sites of that sort (answer.com, etc.) or general encyclopedias.
* A source analysis worksheet will need to be completed for all sources other than library databases and books.
* You may use your textbook though you *may not* count it as one of your six sources.
* At least two cited sources must be print sources, and two sources must be primary sources.
* Paper will include a properly formatted works cited page.

5. **Pre-write:** Organization and thought demonstrated in the form of a required 3-level outline. Editing and revision.

6. **Write a 4-5 page paper**. Make sure your paper is well thought out, well written, and clearly proving your thesis.

* There will be two required drafts that you as well as peers will edit.
* MLA formatted in-text citations and a works cited page.
* Follow all other MLA requirements (12 pt Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, double spaced, left aligned, page numbers). The length is neither a request nor a suggestion: *go over or under and you will lose points.*

**Other important tips and reminders:**

* The assignment will be turned-in in multiple parts.
* A copy of each person’s materials is due at *the beginning of class* the day each part is due.
* Grades will go in both History and English gradebooks.
* There are no rewrites offered for this assignment per the department policy.

Signing my name below indicates I have looked over the assignment requirements and calendar. I understand the expectations of this assignment.

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Student\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_