

## Writing an MLA Research Paper

Instructor: Joseph W. Smith III

Class Code : RSH410

Co-teacher?

Tuition : \$35.00

Length of Class (1st sem/ 2nd sem/both) fall

Materials Fee : see "required text" below

## Description

This course will teach students how to write a research paper using MLA documentation. It will be largely hands-on, with students bringing in their work for feedback and revision. We will cover all steps including: choosing a topic, finding materials, using books, magazines, newspapers & personal interviews (also DVDs and TV if needed), how to distinguish worthy from unworthy online sources, writing a thesis, creating a list of works cited, writing an outline, using in-text citations, first draft and final draft. The resulting paper will be approximately 10 pages long (2500 words). If there is time at the end of the semester, we may also briefly cover old-fashioned footnoting, which is back in vogue now that computer programs have made it much easier.

## Grading Policy

### Specific Policy

LATE POLICY FOR RESEARCH PAPER CLASS, Mr. Smith

Since our coursework is sequenced, with later assignments scaffolded onto previous ones, it is imperative for you to complete your work on time.

For this reason, the following policies will be in effect for the research class:

1. The regular CHEF policy allowing one late assignment per term will not apply for this class.
2. Late assignments will be docked 5 points per day. They should be emailed to the instructor as Word documents. Please DO NOT TEXT THEM -- thanks!
3. Late assignments not handed in by the next class meeting will receive a zero.
4. After three late assignments, you will automatically receive an F for the course, without refund.
5. Please back up all documents onto a stick, flash drive, Dropbox or Google Drive (these last two are free!) so that you can retain your work in the event of a computer crash. Crashed computers or "my printer ran out of ink" (etc.) will not suffice for a late excuse.

**Enrollment:**

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**Max:** 20

**Pre-Requisites:** 10th-12th grade

**Required Text:**

Tuition fee includes cost of an abridged MLA guide that is a good deal cheaper (and more user friendly) than the full-length books on the subject. It is tailored for high school students. Each student registered for the class will receive a bound copy to have and keep.

**Additional Materials:**

Ability to bring a laptop to class would be useful for in-class revision and editing.

## Contact Information

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