

# Core B Research Essay Assignment

**Essay prompt:** Research an influential person from world history (non-American\*). Decide whether you think this person impacted history in a positive or negative way. Your thesis will need to include wording that addresses the person's influence and presents an argument as to WHY you believe his or her influence to be positive or negative. Keep in mind that your argument must be relevant. In other words, someone today might disagree with your opinion.

\*In an effort to encourage topic variety, students in Core B will be limited by nationality when choosing their subject. Tutors will only be permitting 2 people from any one country (Morocco, Poland, India, Spain, Australia, China, Kenya, etc.). With 193 world countries, and thousands of years of history, students will have lots of options.

Since your topic must be arguable, you may find it easier if you pick a controversial historical figure. Things to consider:

- Is this person the hero (or villain) most people think? Consider arguing against common opinion as long as you can find sources to back it up. Keep in mind that obscure arguments may be more difficult to research.
- Did this person make positive contributions to history, but accomplished these things in the wrong way? Consider the moral elements of their influence.
- Consider picking an unsung hero; someone overlooked by most history books. Why should he/she be considered a major player in world history?
- Perhaps popular opinion would label this person a villain; consider arguing against this label. Did he or she make positive contributions that have been ignored or overlooked?

Note: Choose your argument wisely! It must make sense and be provable. If you begin researching and cannot find adequate proof for your argument, you must revise your thesis statement or choose a new topic.

## **Essay Requirements:**

- 4-6 pages (not including Works Cited page)
- Minimum 4 sources; 2 must be books.
- Quotes/Paraphrases/Summaries
  - ✓ Quote requirement: combination of direct quotes, paraphrase, and summary; no block quotes
  - ✓ Each Works Cited source MUST be cited at least once in body paragraphs
  - ✓ CHOOSE YOUR QUOTES WISELY! Avoid quoting common information.
- Any material that does not originate with you must be cited UNLESS it is considered common knowledge (dates, names, historic events).
- All facts must relate to your thesis and in some manner prove your argument.
- Submit to Turnitin by due date. Failure to do so will result in an automatic 20% grade reduction.
- Keep all the components of your essay. They will be needed for final submission (see below)
- Late turn-ins for any part of the process will be accepted on the next PEP day for a 20% grade reduction. If an extension is needed for any component, I must be contacted by a parent PRIOR to the due date of that component.

**NOTE: Please refer to the grading rubric/checklist for a complete list of essay requirements.**

**Due Dates:**

<b>Feb 28<sup>th</sup></b>	1 <sup>st</sup> set of notecards (min. 20) & bib cards (min. 2)
<b>Mar 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Topic to Working Thesis Worksheet
<b>Mar 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Rough Draft of Works Cited
<b>Mar 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Complete set of notecards (min. 40) & bib cards (min. 4)
<b>April 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Topic sentence outline, final thesis statement, revised Works Cited
<b>Apr 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Body paragraph outline
<b>Apr 20<sup>th</sup></b>	1 <sup>st</sup> 5 body paragraphs
<b>Apr 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Intro & Conclusion
<b>May 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Final Draft

**Final Draft submission:**

On the due date, bring the following to class in a two-pocket folder:

Left Side of Folder  
(from front to back)

1. Notecards (in order of appearance)
2. Graded Body Paragraph Outline
3. Graded 1<sup>st</sup> Five Paragraphs
4. Graded Intro & Conclusion
5. Graded Topic Sentence Outline
6. Graded Topic-to Thesis Worksheet

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(from front to back)

1. Clean copy of Final Rubric
2. Final Draft of Essay
3. Signed Parent Checklist

Final Drafts must also be submitted to Turnitin by class time on the due date, May 9, 2022.