**College Composition**

**Research Paper Assignment**

The research paper is the capstone of the college composition course. You will be expected to use all that you have learned about writing, using MLA format, and researching this semester and apply it to your final paper. This project has two major components: to read and enjoy a novel of your choice, and to write a paper using a major theme from the novel.

As part of the research process, you will be required to use note cards/index cards to keep track of your sources as well as your research. This is a great tool to use and master because you will need to use this process for researching in college.

Part I

Choose an appropriate novel to read and analyze. Please choose a book that you will enjoy and also finish during this time. I must approve the book. Your book may be popular fiction, etc., but please remember you will be researching and writing about a major theme/event/issue from this book, so keep this in mind when choosing your book.

Part II

Your research paper will weave together an analysis of your novel (which means direct quotes from your novel) with research about the topic you have chosen. You should create a ‘balanced’ paper, with approximately 50% dedicated to quotes from the novel, and 50% from your research.

Part III

You will be writing an Annotated Bibliography with at least 7 (seven) sources. Please note: this counts for a separate paper/test grade and will be turned in with the research paper.

Requirements:

* Your paper must be a minimum of 7 pages and no more than 9.
* Your annotated bibliography must include at least 7 (seven) sources (two may not used in the paper, but just used as background information).
* You must include in-text citations in your paper (from the novel, and from research – it is a C-E-C essay not a report)
* Please be sure you are familiar with plagiarism issues.

Due Dates:

* Book Choice Approval: done!
* Purpose Statement Approval: done!
* Annotated Bibliography due: December 9
* Draft of Research Essay: December 15
* Final Research Essay due: December 20
* Presentations: December 20-21
* Portfolio: January 11