

Cougar Challenge Research Paper Requirements
(Updated 5/2011)

1. Write a **10-page minimum** argumentative research paper that uses one of these forms of **persuasion**:
 - a. Evaluate/judge
 - b. Pose a problem and propose a solution
 - c. Take a stand
 - d. Seek common ground
2. Use MLA format. See owl.english.purdue.edu for guidelines and examples.
3. Use in-text citations to credit your sources of information; to neglect this is to commit plagiarism. All papers are subject to review by turnitin.com, a service that detects plagiarism.
4. You must have at least **12 valid, peer-reviewed sources** of **academic** information.
 - a. Half of your sources must be PRINT (books, periodicals, databases).
 - b. On-line sources **MUST** be valid academic research sources (no blogs, etc.)
 - c. Beware of .com and .org sites due to potential bias
 - d. Our own library website has access to EBSCO host databases which all SUHSD students should utilize.
 - e. If you have a Redding Library card you will have access to databases.
5. Topic selection is crucial.
 - a. Choose a topic of interest.
 - b. Start with a broad topic and narrow the focus.
 - c. Avoid overused, contentious, or polemic issues (global warming, alternative fuels, animal rights, abortion, gun control, capital punishment).
 - d. Your English and Econ/Gov. teachers make the final determination of whether your topic is approved or denied.
6. Writing a strong thesis will make writing the paper easier. See the Purdue site and your English teacher for assistance with this important step.
- 7. DO NOT PROCRASTINATE ON THIS ASSIGNMENT.**
8. FIRST DRAFT DUE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2012, IN ENGLISH
9. FINAL DRAFT DUE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2012, IN ECON/GOV.
- 10. IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY, GET HELP EARLY AND OFTEN.**