

COUGAR CHALLENGE  
PRELIMINARY TOPIC AND THESIS (updated 5/2011)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ English Teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
Econ/Gov. Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Check the type of paper you plan to write:

take a stand     evaluate/judge     problem/solution     seek common ground

What is your preliminary topic choice for research? \_\_\_\_\_  
*(example: the environment/global warming)*

What is your preliminary thesis (controlling idea supported by research)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*(example: While the unusual number of whales dying at sea in the year 2000 may seem a natural occurrence, marine biologists confirm that it indicates a serious environmental problem that must be solved with a strategic plan.)*

**Keep in mind that while your topic may not change, your thesis possibly will as you research. Check with your English teacher to ensure the new thesis will work.**

If this topic doesn't work out, what is your second choice topic? \_\_\_\_\_

*Teacher only section:*

*Approved* \_\_\_\_\_

*Denied* \_\_\_\_\_

*Check all that apply:*

*not a suitable topic for academic research*

*penmanship is unreadable*

*do not use a question as thesis*

*no position taken*

*include your position in thesis*

*specific argument needed*

*give reasons or argument*

*take a stronger position*

*answer the question "why" in thesis*

*clarify position/thesis*

*Comments/Suggestions:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_