

**Challenge Early College High School
Research Writing 2011-12**

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This semester long class is designed to provide students with the skills they need to write effective research papers at the college level in a variety of subject areas. The class will be focused on providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to:

- Formulate a clear research question
- Locate and retrieve reliable and valid information on their research topic
- Use note-taking strategies to record relevant information from sources
- Paraphrase, summarize and accurately cite information from sources
- Write a research paper that contains a clear, specific thesis statement, strong supporting evidence, logical organization and appropriate grammar, punctuation and vocabulary
- Create a bibliography that adheres to MLA guidelines

Expectations: Be on time and come prepared for class each day by bringing all your materials. Have all your homework assignments completed in preparation for the day's work. The classroom is a professional working environment—no food, drink or electronic devices are allowed.

Absences: If you are absent, you will have 3 school days to make up the missing work. Make sure you have a study partner so you can obtain notes and missed work from him/her.

Grading: Your work will be graded on a “total points” basis. Assignments will be weighted according to the amount of time and effort required to complete them. Over the course of the semester you will complete the following assignments:

- Bibliography sheets
- Cornell notes and note cards
- Summaries and annotated bibliographies
- Quizzes
- Outlines
- Peer edits
- Research papers

Late work will be penalized 10% per day. After 5 days the grade will be recorded as a 0 and no make-up will be allowed.

Supplies

- College ruled loose leaf paper
- Spiral or composition notebook
- Note cards

- Pens (blue or black only)
- Highlighters
- USB/Flash drive (mandatory)
- HCC ID card or library card (mandatory)

Course Units

Close reading and note taking strategies

Students will practice using close reading strategies such as annotations, identifying an author's argument and purpose, and summarizing as well as effective note taking strategies such as Cornell notes, note cards, and writing a rhetorical précis. They will also learn how to effectively integrate source materials into their own work and how to correctly cite their sources so as to avoid plagiarism.

Writing persuasive essay

Students will learn and practice writing the components of a strong persuasive essay, including: writing a clear and specific thesis, using examples effectively, writing organized, well-developed body paragraphs, and writing strong, effective introductions and conclusions. Students will also learn how to peer and self-edit in order to revise a rough draft and produce a polished final draft of their essay. Students will be expected to follow MLA guidelines in all written assignments and will learn how to complete a works cited page for their essay.

Locating sources and recording information

Students will learn how to find a variety of source material in the HCC library and will also learn how to differentiate between reliable and unreliable sources.

Writing an expository essay

Students will use the skills they have learned in the first two units to research a career they are interested in pursuing and write an essay about that career. They will locate information about the educational requirements of their chosen career as well as describing what is involved in working in that profession. They will use this information to create a research question, write an outline, and write an expository essay. Students will then create a brief presentation about their career for their classmates.

Individual research project

Students will identify and research a topic of their choice applying the skills they have acquired to produce a well-organized, informative, well-written final draft of their research paper. They will develop a research question, locate and record information and write a research paper that draws on multiple sources to support a clear, specific thesis statement.