

**HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

RESEARCH PAPER SEQUENCE

Overview

The research paper is the quintessential formal writing assignment in the social studies, as it requires students to simultaneously engage in the full array of historical thinking skills: analyzing and interpreting sources, explaining causation and contextualization, and crafting and supporting an argument with evidence. Students’ abilities to research, evaluate sources, recognize bias, and synthesize various viewpoints are vital in the digital era in which they live. The development of these skills is built into all levels of Hingham’s social studies curriculum, and they help fulfill Hingham High School’s Student Learning Expectations #1 (Read Purposefully), #2 (Write Effectively), and #4 (Identify, Analyze and Solve Problems).

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the research paper process. As a result, students should be prepared to produce their references and notes in the event that the teacher needs to further examine their work. In addition, all high school research papers are required to be submitted to www.turnitin.com.

Criteria

The table below outlines the required criteria for research papers at each grade and level.

Grade	Level	Assignment	Number of Pages	Research Question / Topic	Minimum Number of Sources	Minimum Types of Sources to Be Cited	Citation Style	Timing	Student Support
6	N/A	various	1 – 2	Skills	3	1 primary, 2 secondary	MLA	ongoing	Scaffolded project with support
7	2	World Conflict	4 – 5	Assigned / List	8	2 primary, 6 secondary, no general encyclopedias	MLA	Sem. 2	Scaffolded project with support
	3	World Tour	3 – 4	Assigned / List	4	1 primary, 3 secondary, no general encyclopedias			Scaffolded project with support
	4*	World Tour	2 – 3	Assigned / List	3	1 primary, 2 secondary, no general encyclopedias			Scaffolded project with support
8	2	American Legends	4 – 5	Assigned / List	5	1 primary, 4 secondary, no general encyclopedias	MLA	Q2	Scaffolded project with support
	3	American Legends	3 – 4	Assigned / List	5	1 primary, 4 secondary, no general encyclopedias			Scaffolded project with support
	4*	American Legends	1 – 2	Assigned / List	3	1 primary, 3 secondary, no general encyclopedias			Scaffolded project with support

Grade	Level	Assignment	Number of Pages	Research Question / Topic	Minimum Number of Sources	Minimum Types of Sources to Be Cited	Citation Style	Timing	Student Support
9	2	Spirit of the Renaissance	4 – 6	Assigned / List	6	1 primary, 5 secondary, not more than 2 specialized encyclopedias, no general encyclopedias	Chicago	Sem. 2	Scaffolded project with support
	3	Spirit of the Renaissance	3 – 5	Assigned / List	5	1 primary, 4 secondary, no general encyclopedias		Sem. 2	Scaffolded project with support
	4*	Spirit of the Renaissance	2 – 3	Assigned / List	4	1 primary, 3 secondary, no general encyclopedias		Sem. 2	Scaffolded project with support
10	AP	Transformations	6 – 8	Choice / List	8	3 primary, 5 secondary, not more than 1 specialized encyclopedia, no general encyclopedias	Chicago	Q4	Independent project
	2	Transformations	5 – 7	Choice / List	8	3 primary, 5 secondary, not more than 1 specialized encyclopedia, no general encyclopedias		Sem. 2	Independent project with support
	3	Hero or Villain	4 – 6	Choice / List	6	2 primary, 4 secondary, no general encyclopedias		Sem. 2	Scaffolded project with support
	4*	Hero or Villain	4 – 5	Choice / List	5	2 primary, 3 secondary, no general encyclopedias		Sem. 2	Scaffolded project with support
11	AP**	National History Day	8 – 10	Choice / Choice	25	15 primary, 10 secondary, no specialized encyclopedias, no general encyclopedias	Chicago	Sem. 1	Independent project
	2	National History Day	6 – 8	Choice / Choice	10	5 primary, 5 secondary, no specialized encyclopedias, no general encyclopedias		Sem. 1	Independent project with support
	3	National History Day	5 – 7	Choice / Choice	8	3 primary, 5 secondary, not more than 1 specialized encyclopedia, no general encyclopedias		Sem. 1	Scaffolded project with support
	4*	National History Day	4 – 5	Choice / Choice	6	2 primary, 4 secondary, no general encyclopedias		Sem. 1	Scaffolded project with support

*Modified as necessary to fit student needs

**Must conform to National History Day guidelines.