EDWARD R. MURROW HIGH SHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

ALLEN BARGE, PRINCIPAL TAMAR SINCLAIR, TEACHER

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

SEMESTER RESEARCH PAPER

Everyone has a story to tell when it comes to the Civil Rights Movement. It reached its height from the mid 50’s to the late 60s. Many were involved, and an entire nation was changed and influenced forever. It is your job to bring to life the story of a person, tactic, organization, or group from the Civil Rights Movement or influenced by it. Remember this is a research paper with an argumentative thesis. You are not just giving me information, but you are mainly proving a point using the research to support your idea.

*Possible* ***Topics***:   
A. Civil **Rights in Today’s World**: Look at the Civil Rights Movement. What were some of the characteristics of the movement?  Research a current movement dealing with civil rights that is similar to that of the one in the 1950’s.  Explain what it is, the characteristics of the movement, and similarities/differences from the CRM. Are there lessons/strategies to be learned from the original movement?  
   
**B. Songs of the Civil Rights Movement**: Music was an important part of the Civil Rights Movement.  Identify and research three songs prevalent at the time. Discuss why and how music impacted the movement and the people of this time.  Be sure to analyze the songs for their connection the movement.  Explain what they represent in the movement and what they mean.  
   
**C. Important Figures/Organizations of the Civil Rights Movement:** Choose one important figure from the Civil Rights movement.  Research their life and their connection/involvement in the movement.  Why are they important to the Civil Rights Movement? (It does not have to be a leader of the CRM; it can be a group/leader that opposed the movement.)

**D. The Woman’s Place in the Civil Rights Movement**: Research how women affected the Civil Rights Movement.  Discuss the advantages and disadvantages faced by women during the time. Be sure to highlight one important woman activist and research her connection/role in the movement.  Why was that person important?  How did their contributions differ from male leaders?    
   
**E. Entertainment/Sports Activists:** Research how sports and/or entertainment were affected by the Civil Rights Movement.   Choose one athlete/entertainer (musician, actor, etc.) who was important to Civil Rights and research their connection to the movement. Why was that person important? How did their contributions affect the movement? What obstacles were faced by the integration of sports/entertainment?  
  
**F. Important Events of the Civil Rights Movement:** Choose one important event from the Civil Rights movement. Research what triggered this event and its connection to the movement.   How did this event impact later events or important figures?  

Your project will be due in parts. Each stage of the writing process will be mimicked and graded. This is designed to help you improve your writing along the way. Do not do these parts all at once.

**Part I. Topic Proposal (5pts.)**

You may choose any topic listed on the front of this sheet. You are not simply narrating a piece of history; you are using evidence to construct a thesis (your interpretation of history). When submitting this portion of the project, please submit a typed ¾ page paragraph explaining your topic. As part of your project proposal, provide background information about the topic, briefly discuss the argument you will be making and why you chose this topic. Once a topic has been chosen, you will not be able to change it without a submitting another project proposal.

**Part II. Preliminary Research and Source List (10 pts.)**

You must submit index cards or paper notes to show you have begun your research for your project. On these index cards, write your source on one side in proper MLA format. On the opposite, use bullet points or another means for taking notes from this source for your paper. Visit the Murrow Library website, particularly the GALE databases for better quality sources.

**Part III. Formal Outline (10 pts.)**

Before submitting your paper, you will use your index cards to weave an argument together to prove your point. Remember the outline is an abbreviated picture of the parts of your and the order in which the information will come. Be sure to only include information that is relevant to your thesis. Your outline should be typed, 1 ½ pages.

**Part IV. Final Research Paper (50 pts.)**

This is your opportunity to put all of your hard work together into coherent sentences and paragraphs. The paper must be at least four pages. All papers must be double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font and margins no greater than ONE inch.

**Part V. Final Bibliography (10 pts.)**

* You must have 4 sources. Textbook, encyclopedia, Wikipedia, and non-educational websites will not count and should not be included. Sources should include a mix of both primary and secondary sources.
* Your citations must be written in the proper MLA format. See citation page.
* **Plagiarism: DO NOT use direct words, quotes, or even paraphrasing without citing the author. Use the sources to make your writing stronger by using citations and/or making it truly your own with a reorganization and reinterpretation of the idea. Play it safe and … and cite it!**

**Part VI. Infographic (15 pts.)**

This is your opportunity to share your research with the class in a simple infographic. It must have a clear and catchy title. It must include 5 explained facts and/or statistics from your research paper. Be sure to include relevant visual images to teach your peers what you’ve learned.