

## **SENIOR CAPSTONE PAPER REQUIREMENTS**

All seniors *must pass* the Senior Capstone Paper in order *to qualify for a diploma* from Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School.

### **SENIOR CAPSTONE PAPER (1 Credit)**

#### ***Overview***

Students will demonstrate mastery of research techniques in a well-developed, mechanically sound research paper using proper MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation style.

1. Seniors will conduct a sustained research project that answers a question or solves a problem, writing a 5 page minimum research paper (8-10 for Honors English 12 and AP English Literature).
2. Students will gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, assess the strengths and limitations of the source, and use MLA format for citations.
3. Students will follow a specific timeline of tasks to complete the paper, including making a proposal, writing an outline, completing a rough draft, and turning in a final polished paper.
4. Topics are subject to English teacher approval.

### **ASSIGNMENT**

*College English and Honors Students will choose one of the following prompts:*

#### **Literary:**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The student must identify an author who successfully illustrates a specific genre of literature and, through intensive research, defend the importance of that author's work within the genre and/or to society.</li></ol> |
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#### ***Examples of literary paper topics:***

- *Edgar Allan Poe's influence on Gothic Literature and/or Horror*
- *Ray Bradbury's influence on Science Fiction*
- *Langston Hughes' influence on the Harlem Renaissance and/or African American Literature.*
- *Arthur Miller's influence on American culture and/or The Red Scare.*
- *J.K. Rowling's influence on young adult literature.*
- *Silvia Plath's influence on the Woman's Rights Movement*

#### **Global/National/Local Controversies:**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. The student must establish and defend his or her position on a current global, national, or local issue which has wide reaching effects.</li></ol> |
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#### ***Examples of Global and National controversies***

- *"Fracking" or Hydraulic Fracturing for natural gas (for or against)*
- *Voter registration (for or against)*
- *Nuclear expansion (for or against)*
- *Nationalized Healthcare (for or against)*
- *Amnesty for illegal immigrants (for or against)*

#### ***Local controversies***

- *Assisted living programs in residential areas (for or against)*
- *Chick-fil-A; should government officials allow their private views to influence their public persona?(for or against)*
- *Casinos (for or against)*

**Advanced Placement Students will choose one of the following prompts:**

1. The student must identify an author whose writing impacted society or literature and, through intensive research, analyze and defend the importance of that author's work. It is expected that the student read the writer's work as well.
2. The student must choose a specific novel or other significant literary work, read it, and, write a researched, thesis-driven, analysis of that novel. The student should use a specific critical approach and avoid summary.

**Assignment Summary**

All student papers should be clear, logical, and persuasive, reflecting the student's knowledge of research methods in English and featuring original insights or approaches. Students might want to imagine themselves teaching a class session based on their ideas. A key element of the paper is that the student must take a stand on an issue and defend it through researched evidence.

**Paper Steps/Requirements:**

1. Topic Approval
2. Detailed Outline
3. Rough Draft
  - a. 5 pages minimum (8-10 pages minimum for Honors and A.P. students)
  - b. Typed
  - c. MLA formatting
  - d. Works cited page
    - i. A Minimum of 5 Sources
    - ii. Quoted evidence in any case where support is needed
4. Final Draft

**SENIOR CAPSTONE PAPER TIMELINE 2012-2013**

EVENT	DATE
Topic Selection and Approval	09/09/2013 to 09/13/2013
Outline is Due	09/26/2013
Outline is Corrected and Returned	10/08/2013
Rough Draft is Due	10/24/2013
Rough Draft is Corrected and Returned	11/05/13
Final Draft is Due	11/21/2013
Final Draft is Corrected and Returned	12/12/2013

**LATE POINT DEDUCTIONS**

- 1 day late = -10 pts
- 2 or more days late = -20 points