Elizabethan Era Research Paper

English 9 / Fall 2014

You will be writing a research paper on a topic relating to Shakespeare or the Elizabethan Era. The term “Elizabethan Era” refers to the period in English history during which Queen Elizabeth I ruled (1558-1603), but we will also include the years leading up to and following this period.

**STEP ONE: CHOOSE A TOPIC**

You may choose from the following list. However, if you think of a topic not on the list, check with me for approval.

1. Try to choose something that interests you. You’ll be working on this project for the next three weeks, so take a little time to think about what you actually want to do.

2. After you choose a topic, begin to think of questions you have. These questions will help you narrow your topic and begin your research.

**PEOPLE**
- William Shakespeare
- Christopher Marlowe
- Henry VIII
- Catherine of Aragon
- Anne Boleyn
- Jane Seymour
- Elizabeth I
- Mary Queen of Scots
- James I
- Francis Bacon
- Francis Drake
- The Tudors

**CULTURE**
- Globe Theatre
- Drama/Acting
- Sports and Games
- Music and Dance
- Masques and Masquerades
- Printing and Bookselling
- The Shakespeare First Folio
- The King James Bible
- Architecture
- Language
- Inventions
- Patronage/Life at Court
- Heraldry
- Renaissance Italy
- Exploration
- Science

**SOCIETY & EVERYDAY LIFE**
- Justice and Punishment
- Torture Practices
- Outlaws and Highwaymen
- Weaponry
- Social Class
- Daily Life
- Medical Practices/Dentistry
- Women’s Role/Life
- Children
- Food/Diet
- Education
- Marriage and Weddings
- The Plague
- Tools
- Religion
- Astrology
- Superstition

**STEP TWO: RESEARCH YOUR TOPIC**

You will find and use 3-5 sources in your paper. It is entirely up to you whether these are electronic or print sources. Mrs. Porter will guide you through the process of finding and evaluating sources.

Once you have begun to formulate questions (who, what, where, when, why, how, etc.), you can begin to decide which passages from your sources you want to quote from or paraphrase. These research questions will also help you write a thesis statement later on.
STEP THREE: CREATE A WORKS CITED PAGE

After you have selected your sources, you will use EasyBib to create a Works Cited page. Mrs. Porter will show you how to do this in the library.

STEP FOUR: CREATE ELECTRONIC NOTECARDS

You will also create 10 electronic notecards using EasyBib. These will help you avoid accidentally plagiarizing your sources. Mrs. Porter will guide you through the steps involved in making and organizing electronic notecards.

STEP FIVE: WRITE A THESIS STATEMENT

A thesis statement is a sentence that summarizes the main argument of your research paper. It will also be the last sentence of your introductory paragraph. This sentence will probably evolve as you write your paper.

STEP SIX: CREATE AN OUTLINE

You will create an outline by organizing your EasyBib electronic notecards and exporting them into an outline. Mrs. Porter will show you how to do this.

STEP SEVEN: WRITE YOUR ROUGH DRAFT

Your outline will form the basis of your rough draft. The better organized your outline is, the easier it will be to write your rough draft.

STEP EIGHT: PEER REVIEWS (1 & 2)

You will do two peer reviews with two different students. You will need to have a completed rough draft at the beginning of class on the day of the first peer review. You will do a second peer review the following day.

STEP NINE: REVISE & PROOFREAD

You will have one additional full class day just to revise and proofread your essay. Proofreading will include checking for proper punctuation, spelling, and sentence structure (i.e., avoiding fragments and run-ons).

STEP TEN: HAND IN YOUR FINAL DRAFT

Your final draft will be 600-1000 words in length. Additionally, it will be in MLA format: Times New Roman font (size 12), double-spaced, with one-inch margins.