**World Literature Research Assignment, Spring 2014**

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**Date:** The final draft of your paper is due on **Monday, February 10th**.  Late papers will result in a 10% deduction per day.  We will be in the computer lab for the entire week of February 3rd and you can also utilize the school media center and labs after school. This project is worth 15% of your final grade and 200 points total (150 for the written part and 50 points for a 5-minute oral presentation with a poster.

**Length:** 2-4 pages (not counting the Works Cited page); papers must be typed in twelve-point font, Times New Roman, with one-inch margins.

**Topic:** The theme for our current unit is Individual vs. Society. In the book, *Persepolis*, Marjane Sartapi spotlights several characters who challenge the Iranian government and changing societal norms. Sartapi herself challenges her society by refusing to “flock” with her peers, and attempting to educate her readers about true Iranian history. Your assignment is to research another person who went against the norm and challenged society for a cause. You will write about the person’s life, outline what led them to their cause, and how they were successful.

**Purpose:**The first purpose of this assignment is to make you an expert on someone.  Through this assignment, you will also better your research and writing skills, and prepare yourself for future research projects throughout your high school years and college years.

**Form:**MLA format.  Information about proper MLA structure can be found on the following website:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

**Sources:**You will need five sources.You must use a representative selection of primary and secondary sources in developing your paper.  You must give evidence of significant research efforts.  You will need to visit the school media center to find print sources, as well as internet sources.   While Wikipedia is a useful source for finding references, it is not a source to be cited in your paper.

**Hand-ins:**You must hand in 5 source cards, 15 note cards, a rough draft, your final research paper, and a poster to present to the class.

**Schedule of Events:**On each of the dates listed below, we will meet with you individually to discuss that date’s topic.

**Date                                           Conference Topic**

Friday, January 17       Topic Selection\* (You must have decided on who you will

research)

Thursday, January 23           Source cards and working thesis\* due at the beginning of class

Friday, January 24             7 note cards\* due at the beginning of class

Wednesday, January 29           8 note cards\* due at the beginning of class

Wednesday, February 5           Rough draft\* due by the end of class

Monday, February 10           Final draft, editing checklist, and poster due at the start of class

 **Note**: For this research paper, you are required to hand in, or have for review, certain items on specific dates (marked with a \* above).  Each of these check-ins will count as a quiz grade.  If, for any reason, we do not meet on the date given, your work will be due the next day the class meets.

What am I writing about?

**Your Mission:**

Part 1: Identify a person that has changed their society by challenging societal norms

Part 2: Outline this person’s life. Address what motivated them to challenge their society. Discuss their background, or where they came from, and highlight their achievements.

How do I do this?

*Writing a research paper is a process, from identifying a topic, to learning about it through research, to drawing a conclusion about it, to proving your thesis in your paper. DO NOT WORRY: You will get there!*

**The Research Paper Process:**

**Step 1: Identify a topic. Who/what are you going to write about?**

**Step 2: Organize yourself BEFORE you begin researching. (What do you already know? What do you need to learn?)**

**Step 3: Collect sources. Read them. Take notes on what you learn.**

**Step 4: Develop a thesis—based on your research—that supports your point.**

**Step 5: Outline how you will defend your thesis. (How will you prove your point? How will you convince us you are right?)**

**Step 6: Organize your research and incorporate it into your outline.**

**Step 7: Using your outline, write a first draft.**

**Step 8: Edit and revise your draft.**

**Step 9: Clean it up! Write your final draft, including proper citation and a bibliography.**

**Step 10: Create a poster and plan how you will present the information to the class.**

**Step 11: Hand it in and bask in the glory of writing an AWESOME research paper!!!**