**The Sophomore Project**

**European & Latin American Studies-Maners/Morales**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this assignment is to compile research concerning your given topic and develop a thesis driven essay defining and proving the topic’simpact on some aspect of European or Latin American history/culture/socioeconomics, etc. This paper will not just be an informational report. You must argue how your topic is historically significant and prove that argument with concrete factual support. You will have library time during class for the assignment, but you will also need to work on it outside of school.

**Directions**: You will pick any topic from the 1700’s on (or talk to me if you REALLY want to do something earlier), do authentic research and write a 1,200-1,500 word paper.

→ Peruse the list of suggested topics, your textbook, look at the web, etc., to find a topic of interest to you.

→ Research and formulate a relevant research question.

→ Construct a thesis.

→ Do more research & compile at least 50 note cards from at least 8 sources (see #4 below for source guidelines).

→ Create a thorough pre-write of your research in the form of a 4-level outline.

→ Finally, you will write your paper.

**Details:**

1. **Find a topic, do some research and create a research question** on anything that has taken place in European or Latin American history since the 1700’s. You can research something we have done in class, something we will do in class, or something we may never get to in class—look at the suggested topic list, through your book, notes, unit guide, and the internet, or ask for suggestions. Regardless of whether or not your topic is on the suggested list, you will need to get it approved before you begin more in-depth research. You will do this by emailing Ms. Maners your top three choices by the day we get back from second winter break. Please do not do this right before class, I need to have time to approve it. I will check e-mail every few days over break – the sooner you e-mail me, the sooner you will hear back if it is approved or not! ☺

2. **Begin the process of taking formal notes with note cards and source cards**. Since this research will span a period of many weeks, you will need to keep track of your work in a formal manner. Each time you work, you will put your notes and source info on note cards, either physical note cards or online note cards (see #4 below). YOU MAY CHOOSE WHICH TYPE OF NOTE CARDS TO DO, BUT YOU MUST PICK ONE AND YOU MUST BE CONSISTENT.

3. **Write a working thesis** based on the initial research you have collected. Remember, the research question drives your research and your research drives your thesis. Therefore, throughout the course of the research and writing process you will be revising your thesis. There will be several occasions where you will turn in your thesis for feedback and approval.

4. **Continue formal note taking**, you will ultimately need at least 50 correctly formatted note cards and at least eight source cards. ***None of these sources may be Wikipedia or sites of that sort (answer.com, etc.) or general encyclopedias.*** Additionally, an OPVCL will need to be completed for all sources other than library databases and books. You may use your textbook, though you may not count it as one of your eight sources. **At least two cited sources must be print sources, and two sources must be primary sources, and at least one article from the JSTOR database must be used in the essay.** Because these eight will be sources used and cited in your essay, your paper will include a properly formatted works cited page.

5. **Pre-write:** Organization and thought will go in to creating your paper. This will be demonstrated in the form of a required 4-level outline that will be done once, edited, and revised, including the addition of a Works Cited page.

6. **Write a 1,200-1,500 word paper**. Make sure your paper is well thought-out, well written, and clear. And that it proves your thesis true. There will be two required drafts that you as well as peers will edit. Because it is a research paper, your paper will contain MLA formatted in-text citations and a works cited page. Additionally you will follow some other MLA requirements. The length is neither a request nor a suggestion: go over or under and you will lose points.

**THIS ASSIGMENT WILL BE TURNED IN IN MANY PARTS. A COPY OF EACH PERSON’S MATERIALS IS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS THE DAY EACH PART OF THE PROJECT IS DUE – SOME WILL ALSO BE DUE TO TURNITIN.COM. FINALLY, BE AWARE THE GRADES WILL GO IN BOTH THE LANGUAGE ARTS AND SOCIAL STUDIES GRADEBOOKS.**