Research Paper

Prompt

The research paper for this course is based on a thesis statement generated from the reading and discussion of the articles in the text for the course, *America Now*. The articles in the text address various components of contemporary popular culture with which all students will be quite familiar. Students must select one of these popular culture topics, establish a stance on a particular issue within the topic, and conduct research to find evidence to support a thesis statement defending the chosen stance on the issue.

The research paper is broken down into the components below which will be completed and submitted for grading in the order they are presented below.

- Thesis statement (30 pts.)
- Outline (20 pts.)
- Rough draft (100 pts.)
- Final draft (200 pts.)

Parameters

- Formal
- MLA format
- 6 – 8 scholarly sources
- 6 – 8 pages in length

Popular Culture Components/Topics

- Relationships: Is traditional marriage viable today?
- Social media: Has communication via the internet helped or hindered society?
- Racial and ethnic identify: How important are race and ethnicity today?
- Consumerism: Do conspicuous consumption and materialism benefit society?
- College sports: Is the collegiate amateur athlete a thing of the past?
- Violence: Is violence on the rise?
- Language: Is language changing in a positive or negative manner?
- Education: Is higher education still important for success?
- Prison population: Can/should the prison population be lowered?
- Climate change: Is there scientific evidence of the warming of the plant?

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