

SOCIAL STUDIES
A CONTINENT IN CRISIS
7th GRADE RESEARCH PAPER

NAME _____

PERIOD _____

As we've studied the world this year, we've explored many of the issues that people in different places have to face everyday. But nowhere are these problems and their consequences more widespread than in the region of Africa. Its nations and their hundreds of millions of people endure poverty, corrupt and oppressive governments, underdevelopment and many other concerns making it truly a continent in crisis.

In Africa, what is a significant problem that has put this continent in crisis, and how has it impacted the people who live there?

You'll find the answers to this ***Research Question*** through the thorough investigation of a topic of your choice. You'll use the information you learn to construct a properly cited 3-5 page research paper. This research paper and the multiple steps necessary in the research and writing process will be a grade in both your Social Studies and English classes. ***The vast majority of the work you do on this project will be done on your own and outside of class.*** At the end, you'll present what you've learned to your classmates.

STEP 1: CHOOSE A TOPIC

- Topics are provided in the table below.
- Research topics in order to narrow the focus of your project down to something interesting, manageable and meaningful (*something you like*)

Topic Approval Sheet due by 4/27 in S.S. class

STEP 2: RESEARCH

- Do some preliminary reading for background information.
- Gather sources which provide the required information (see STEP 4).
- At least 6 sources (at least 4 online database sources, 2 others) (*you will have lots of sources!!!!*)
- Prepare Source Cards
- Prepare Quotation and Paraphrase Cards (Follow correct Research Format)
- **AVOID PLAGIARISM**

*****3 Source Cards (*can be from topic approval sheet*) with a total of 30 note cards for the first 3 sources due 5/6 (Bring to both English and S.S.)**

*****3 additional Source Cards with a total of 30 note cards for the additional 3 sources due 5/17 (must bring in all 60 cards to receive credit) (Bring to both English and S.S.)**

STEP 3: THESIS STATEMENT

- Review your notes and draw a conclusion which answers the research question.
- Your thesis must be a single sentence that states your position and provides a focus to your paper.

Thesis Statement due 5/18 in S.S. Class

STEP 4: OUTLINE (Will be graded in English class)

- Make a detailed outline that organizes your information into relatively equal parts with logical headings to prove your thesis. Use the following format as a model:

I. Lead Interesting Lead to hook the reader (may be part of introduction or separate paragraph depending on the length and style...creative license)

II. Introduction to the Problem

- A. Definition of Problem
- B. Severity/prevalence (How bad is the Problem)?
- C. 1st Cause of the Problem – Is it a man-made or geography problem? (Think about)
- D. 2nd Cause of the Problem – Is it a man-made or geography problem? (Think about)
- E. Thesis Statement: (Your Revised Thesis Statement Goes Here)

III. An impact of the Problem is _____: (How does this problem impact society? You may want to think in PRIMES.)

IV. ANOTHER impact of the Problem is _____: (How does this problem impact society? You may want to think in PRIMES.)

V. Evaluating the Problem

- A. Is one impact of the Problem more significant than the other?
- B. Is the Problem getting better or worse?
- C. What could people (as individuals or as a nation) do to help improve the Problem?

VI. Conclusion

- A. Wrap up paper
- B. Dig for deeper meaning
- C. So What???

Outline due 5/24 in English Class will need 2 copies

STEP 5: ROUGH DRAFT

- Write an effective **Lead** which attracts the reader's interest.
- Write an effective **Introduction** (Put your Thesis Statement at the end of the introductory paragraph.)
- Following the organization established in your outline, blend information from your notes into body paragraphs.
- Bring your paper to a close with a concluding paragraph.
- Word processed, 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1 inch margins
- All sources documented in proper MLA Bibliographic Format (Works Cited Page).
- In-Text Citations in MLA Format for each paragraph (may not have one for Lead or Conclusion).
- No less than 3 and no more than 5 pages in length**.

Rough Draft due 6/2

STEP 6: FINAL PAPER

- Revise rough draft where needed.
- Proofread your paper.
Final Paper with Works Cited Page due 6/8 (2 copies!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)

CHOOSE A TOPIC: PROBLEMS IN AFRICA (with examples)		
Poverty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunger/Malnutrition 	Children's Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Soldiers • Child Labor • Access to Education 	Civil War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sierra Leone • Rwanda • Sudan • Ivory Coast
Globalization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic underdevelopment • Exploitation of developing countries 	Women's Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffrage • General equality 	Environmental Destruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desertification • Deforestation • Climate Change • Poaching • Exploitation of natural resources
Disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malaria • A.I.D.S. • Tuberculosis • Waterborne Illnesses 	Political Corruption/Oppression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zimbabwe • Somalia • Religious intolerance 	Other??? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piracy • Blood Diamonds

FYI: SOME COUNTRIES IN AFRICA	
REGIONS	COUNTRIES
North Africa	Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria,
West Africa	Niger, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, Senegal, Chad, and Mauritania
Central Africa	Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and São Tomé and Príncipe
East Africa	Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania
Southern Africa	Angola, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Zambia

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand the requirements of this research paper. (Signatures due April 15th)

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

A CONTINENT IN CRISIS RESEARCH PAPER RUBRIC

	A	B	C	D	F
Lead	Engaging	Interesting	Accurate	Off track	No Lead
Introduction	Concise and complete. Captures key elements of the problem.	Effective. Addresses key elements of problem.	Adequate overview. May lack clarity of elements of the problem.	May be incomplete or contain excessive information.	Does not frame subject of paper.
Thesis statement	Complex, creative, and insightful.	Clear and complex. Scope of response is appropriate.	Clear answer to question. Depth or complexity may be limited.	Confusing or incomplete response to the question.	Missing, misplaced, or does not answer question.
Analysis	Astute analysis demonstrates breadth and depth of understanding. Persuasive argument.	Evidence explicitly linked to topic sentences. Clear argument.	Little analysis. Writer assumes that facts or opinions answer the question.	Writer assumes that facts will answer question. Insufficient focus on supporting topic sentences.	Analysis is lacking or confused. Insufficient focus on answering question.
Organization and Written expression	Well organized. Clear line of development with smooth transitions. Excellent mechanics. Reads smoothly and clearly.	Logically organized. Addressed thesis consistently, but not entirely persuasively. Generally solid transitions. Well written with only minor errors.	Some organization of information. Thesis not central to all parts of essay. Inconsistent line of development. Significant mechanical errors.	Fragmented development. Many mechanical errors. Writing seems rushed, sloppy or confused.	Disorganized. Little attention to structure. Mechanics make comprehension difficult.
Citations and documentation	Flawless citations and works cited page.	1-2 errors in citations and/or works cited page.	Multiple in citations or works cited page. May have a couple of omissions.	Lack of attention to citations and works cited page. Careless or inaccurate format	Missing or incorrect citations. Plagiarism. Little attention given to proper format.
Research, evidence and historical understanding	Extensive research from a wide variety of sources. Sophisticated understanding of the Problem, including multi-causation, perspective and context.	Significant research from appropriate sources. Solid understanding of the Problem, including cause and effect, perspective and context.	Some evidence of good research, some gaps. General understanding of the Problem, including cause and effect and context.	Limited research. Incomplete or confused understanding of the Problem. Emphasis on basic facts.	Little or no significant research. Does not go much beyond textbook. Errors demonstrate lack of comprehension.
Conclusion	Effectively raises and answers "So what?" question.	Restates thesis and addresses broader significance.	Restates thesis. Ineffective answer to "So what?" question.	Conclusion is inaccurate or irrelevant.	Lacking a conclusion.