Writing A Research Essay

The purpose of the essay is to persuade the reader to accept the thesis statement, (a statement that evidences an opinion, argument, or an attitude). The reader will be convinced the thesis is either true or false by the arguments and evidence submitted in the paper.

Criteria

1. Research essay must have a thesis statement, which can be proven true or false.
2. Research essay must be type written – size 12 font, 2 – 3 pages, not including graphs, pictures, bibliography, and title page.
3. Research essay must use a minimum of three different resources (Magazines: National Geographic, Newsweek, Time; newspapers, textbook, excerpts from literature, encyclopedia, atlas, personal interviews, etc.).
4. All six steps must be completed and a minimum of 80% (48 points) must be earned to gain credit for the research paper – Work not containing all six steps, or papers with less than 48 points shall be returned without a grade. The work may be resubmitted when complete.

Steps

1. Select topic  
2. Research notes  
3. Outline  
4. Draft #1  
5. Draft #2  
6. Final copy

Requirements

_____ / 25 PTS  TEXT  (each portion worth 5 points)
_____ /5  Facts, details and examples provided (w / footnotes)
_____ /5  Personal opinion of topic defined
_____ /5  Clear expression and organization of ideas
_____ /5  Conventions (grammar, spelling, punctuation)
_____ /5  Reason for selecting topic indicated

_____ / 15 PTS  BIBLIOGRAPHY  (each portion worth 5 points)
_____ /5  Three sources of various types
_____ /5  Accurate form followed  (see attached)
_____ /5  Complete citations of sources provided

_____ / 5 PNTS  TITLE PAGE  (each worth 1 point)
_____ /1  Title
_____ /1  Student Name
_____ /1  Date
_____ /1  Course
_____ /1  Advisor’s Name

_____ / 10 PNTS  OUTLINE  (each worth 5 points)
_____ /5  Proper form followed
_____ /5  Complete description of report

_____ / 5 PNTS  POLISH – Finished, pleasing appearance
_____ / EXTRA PNTS  OPTIONAL:  Charts, graphs, and illustrations

_____ TOTAL POINTS OUT OF 60

Comments: