

Catcher in the Rye  
**Research Project Overview**

*Final Essay Due: March 9<sup>th</sup>*

**Final Draft is due: (printed copy in class) Monday 3/09**

**To turnitin.com 10 pm Sunday, 3/08**

*See reverse for more details.*

**Overview:** For this particular project, you will be asked to engage in sustained research on a particular topic related to *Catcher in the Rye*. Your final paper will be a synthesis that encompasses both your understanding of the text and the knowledge you garner from the research process.

**For the budding psychologist:** In your reading of *Catcher in the Rye*, pay special attention to Salinger's characterization of Holden's mental state and emotional/psychological well being. Research abnormal psychology and do a case study on Holden. Psychologically speaking, how would you diagnose him? What disorder(s) best fit his "issues" in the novel?

**For the personality typing buff:** Research the Jungian and/or Myers Briggs personality typology. How would you classify Holden? Then, through your understanding of Holden's needs and skills, design the perfect mate for him. In what typology would we find Holden's "perfect fit" and why?

**For the historical Sherlock Holmes:** Scholars have said repeatedly that *Catcher in the Rye* is a timeless classic and that Holden is a character who applies in any age or time period. Research the historical context and references within the novel to Holden's time period. Provide a convincing argument as to Salinger's firm grounding of Holden in his historical setting. How is Holden the voice of *his* generation?

**For the up-and-coming critic:** Research the critical response (past, present, or both) to *Catcher in the Rye* in a minimum of 3 substantial critical articles. Then incorporate your findings into a critical article of your own. Where, if anywhere, does this novel fit within the canon of American literature?

**For the young adult literature lover: Choose one of the Young Adult Fiction books on the list for activity 5. (See Ms. Gomez for the list of you need it. You also can suggest an alternative title if you'd like). Read it.** How does this book and/or character compare to *The Catcher in the Rye* and/or Holden? What similarities and/or differences do you notice? How does *The Catcher in the Rye* stack up? If you were to judge, based on the excerpt you read and what you know of Salinger's book, which one is the best in terms of quality – storyline, character development, believability, etc. ? Between CTR and the book you read, which one do you think would speak most powerfully to today's teenagers and why?

## Other Important Stuff:

**If you are absent on the day of a “How To” lesson, it is your responsibility to get the notes from one of your classmates and the handouts from the American Lit Student binder.**

Make sure to ask for help from me if you are feeling lost—don’t wait until it is too late

### Guidelines, Due Dates, and Other Important Stuff

#### General Guidelines:

- Your essay must be between 3-5 pages in length. Typed. Times New Roman. 12 size font. MLA format.
- This is an individual assignment. No groups.
- You must use at least 3 reliable sources, one of which should be *Catcher in the Rye*. Many of you already have your second source. You will need to find one more.
- This essay will be worth 100 points in the Essays and Projects category
- Please note that all of the individual assignments leading up to the essay are considered homework, and so will not be accepted late.

Fine Print: Please also note that you must submit your essay to turnitin.com AND bring a copy to class the day it is due. Otherwise, it is late. This is also true if you email me a copy and I have to print it for you. Please make sure and check your printer ink now. If you are having computer issues, start working on a way to resolve these now. Find a back up method of printing your essay NOW. If you show up the day the essay is due and tell me your computer failed, your printer ran out of ink, a hamster chewed the cord etc, I will accept your essay, but it will be marked late. That means, it will be marked down a full grade and it will be graded last, no written comments etc. Please talk to me now if you anticipate having computer issues so I can help you resolve these now.

Assignment or Activity	Date Assigned	Date Due	Computer Lab/Library Time
Research Project Overview <b>Thesis Statement “How To” Lesson (Due 2/23, 10 points HW)</b>	Friday 2/13	Monday 2/23	
Where to find sources	Monday 2/23	In-class activity	Library
-Crafting Claims “How To” Lesson	Tuesday 2/24	In-class activity	Library Computer Lab
Creating an Outline “How To” Lesson <b>(Due 2/27, 20 points HW)</b>	Block Days 2/25 and 26	Friday 2/27	Library Computer Lab
<b>-Rough Draft (Due 3/2, 25 points HW)</b>	Friday 2/27	Monday 3/2	
Peer Editing	Monday 3/2	In class activity	209
Writing Workshops: individual activities	<b>Block days and Friday 3/4, 5 and 6</b>	<b>In class activity</b>	<b>COWS</b>
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