**STEPS TO WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER----- CREDIT TO MRS. CAMPEAU**

**CHOOSING A TOPIC:**

Focus on a question or an idea that interests you. (Search the Web links provided or EBSCO Host)

Have enough information to support your topic in a 2-3 page research paper.

**NARROWING THE TOPIC AND WRITING THESIS STATEMENT**:

Broad topic: REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Narrow topic: ESPIONAGE

Focus: CULPER SPY RING

***Narrow topic + focus = thesis***

**Thesis**: General Washington’s emphasis on espionage was essential to keeping track of British movements in New York City during the war

**RESEARCHING THE TOPIC-**

Look for facts, details, and statistics to support your thesis statement.

(Use only reliable information--- Internet or hard copy.)

Best sources are primary sources.

You must use at least two to three, or more references in your paper, because to limit to just one is to limit the facts.

**GATHERING INFORMATION-**

Use either a GOOGLE Doc or word doc to save important information from sources.

Ensure you make your Bibliography page as you go. Do not wait until the last moment. ***THIS IS WHERE GOOGLE DOCS COMES IN VERY VERY HANDY!!!***

You write the information you gather in your own words. However, to avoid plagiarism, if you are including information that you did not know before you conducted your research, then give proper credit to the source. Do not use words that are not familiar to you or words you cannot explain when asked. That is evidence of plagiarism.

**PLAGIARISM IS TO USE SOMEONE ELSE’S WORDS AS YOUR OWN WITHOUT GIVING CREDIT TO THE AUTHOR. IT DOES NOT TAKE MUCH TO INCLUDE AN IN-TEXT REFERENCE AND/OR QUOTATION MARKS.**

**ORGANIZING INFORMATION-**

Identify background information

Identify topic for each paragraph

Whenever you change topic, start a new paragraph.

Outline your concept and order first, then begin writing.

**WRITING THE FIRST DRAFT-**

You are writing a historical account. Therefore, it will be in third person.

The research paper must be factual and objective.

Keep your writing in the past tense.

Each paragraph should:

Begin with a topic sentence (tells the point of the paragraph)

Contain several supporting details (facts, statistics, examples, quotations).

**WRITING THE INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSION-**

**INTRODUCTION**

Hook (question, quotation, story, fascinating fact, or statistic).

Background information (a description of the event or personality).

Thesis statement (Last sentence in the introduction).

**CONCLUSION**

Transition word or phrase.

Restate thesis statement

Summarize main points

Leave the reader with information to cause them to research further.

Include your own opinion or belief about the subject.

**DOCUMENTING SOURCE- (This is a deviation from language arts since it is a social sciences paper)**

\*\*Use **MLA format** We will use the format in Google Docs. In-text citations are used as needed. More is better.

**See examples provided for websites or articles without author, author, quoting a source with author.**

**If there is more than one author, list them all.**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY PAGE**

**(WEBSITE)** Rudman, John F. “American Revolution.” *History and Civics with the Colonel*, 2020, https://historyandcivicswiththecolonel.com. Accessed 1 December 2020.

**(BOOK)** Schweikart, Larry, and Michael Allen. *A Patriot's History of the United States*. Sentinel, 2004.

**WHAT DOES AN IN-TEXT CITATION LOOK LIKE?**

(Rudman)

(Schweikart and Allen #) **CHANGE THE # TO A PAGE NUMBER**

**INSERT YOUR IN-TEXT CITATIONS AT THE END OF THE SENTENCE BEFORE THE PERIOD.**

**THIS IS YOUR LIST OF REFERENCES. GOOGLE DOCS WILL IDENTIFY IT AS SUCH AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE**

**PREPARING THE FINAL REPORT**

**Revise-** use paraphrase checker located on the MOODLE MEDIA CENTER 8TH GRADE

**EDIT**

**PROOFREAD**

**READ BACKWARDS TO CHECK SPELLING ERRORS MISSED BY THE AUTO CHECKER.**

**SEE THE RUBRIC AND CHECK IT OFF AS YOU GO.**