1984 Research Paper Topics

Airport Security and Scanning
Benghazi
CCTV
Censorship
Church and state
Civil rights
Crime
Death
Divorce
Drones
Education
Family and family relation
Freedom and Enslavement
Freedom of Speech
Gangs
Google Privacy changes
Government tracking
  School lunches
  Children – obesity
  Medication – Sudafed, etc.
Guantanamo bay
Human rights
Internet tracking
IRS (tracking)
Juvenile offenders
Language changes
Language use
Media violence
Mental disorders
Mental health
Mental institutions
Military tactics
Mobile Phones
National security
NSA/Snowden
ObamaCare
Patriot Act 2001
Political corruption
Prisons
Reality television
Repression
Right of privacy
Social Media/Social Networking
Socialism and communism
Suicide
Supermax Prisons
Surveillance cameras
Terrorism
Torture
Upskirt Ban
United State foreign relations
Violence
War crimes
WikiLeaks
Research Paper Sections:

Introductory Overview (1 page)- This “introduction” should still have components of a typical introduction written for most academic papers. In this introduction, the student will want entice the audience with the topic he/she has chosen to research by presenting the topic as a complicated, multi-faceted issue of contemporary society. In this 1-page introduction, you are presenting the idea of the topic and merely introducing its complexity to your academic audience.

Summary (2-3 pages)- In the “summary” section of the student’s research paper, the student will be summarizing the main points of each viewpoint on his/her chosen topic. The summary should be written in body paragraphs organized in “like” ideas and should succinctly present both the pro & cons sides of the issue chosen. In this section, the complexities of the issue should be made clear to your academic audience. This is the section where the student will present the controversy in-depth providing statistics, positions of advocacy groups, positions of academics who have studied issue comprehensively, etc. As the author of the research paper, YOU WILL NOT “weigh in” on any of the material presented in the summary section. Remember, you are still serving as an “accurate and trustworthy reporter of the various opinions” you have researched on your chosen controversial topic.

Conclusion (1-2 pages)- In the “conclusion” section of your research paper, you will be expected to offer your own opinion on the controversy you chose and researched. The conclusion you present should reflect opinions developed as a result of your extensive reading and thinking! Because true controversial topics are so multi-faceted, some of you may not arrive at a definitive opinion on the controversy chosen. However, your conclusions should reflect the clear understanding you possess from the research process.

Works Cited Page- This page is to be formatted correctly (you may use helper sites like EasyBib.com and Citation Machine). It will be its OWN SEPARATE PAGE! Please refer to the LibGuide or the handout on “How to Format Your Works Cited Page” given in class.

I have read and understand the above sections on this _____ day of March 20_____.

Student’s Signature ____________________________________________
Due Dates: See your instructor. Note that the final due date is April 15! NO EXCEPTIONS.

Purpose: Your research paper is designed to allow you to learn as much as possible about a topical, controversial topic that ties into the themes explored in George Orwell’s novel 1984.

You Will:

- Educate yourself about the dimensions of a pertinent controversy
- Appreciate that complex problems are multi-faceted with no simplistic solutions
- Practice the fundamentals of research in an age of changing technology
- Continue practicing academic writing in preparation for college-level coursework

Directions:

Controversies are complicated, multi-faceted problems that are seldom easily solved—if ever. Media might make controversies out to be simple (pro and con, yes or no), but that’s to make a profit, much the way a network attracts viewers by showing rival football teams! However, educated people must be able to understand that controversies are usually too complicated and nuanced for there to be just two sides, and no easy answers.

This assignment is designed to give you practice in research, at the same time that it is designed to help you learn the most effective way of approaching a controversy so that you can respect its dimensions rather than immediately developing a reaction. Hence, much of your research paper will be informative, rather than argumentative, in nature.

You will be offering your audience (teacher and your classmates) an introduction and overview of the controversy, and a detailed description and summaries of the controversy’s various sides and solutions. For most of this paper, you are no more—and no less—than an accurate and trustworthy reporter of the various opinions you read about concerning this controversy.

Only in your conclusion will you be allowed to offer your own opinions on the controversy, ones that are the result of your extensive reading and thinking. In fact, you are not expected to arrive at a definitive opinion on the controversy you choose, so much as to convince your classmates and professor that you fully understand that controversies are seldom, if ever, as simple as a dichotomy of pro/con, yes/no, for/against.

Grading Criteria:

- Your ability to meet all requirements for this assignment and follow directions, including formatting
- Your ability to remain impartial and objective in the introduction and body portions of the paper
- The degree of thought, research, and substance that goes into the paper
- The grammatical, mechanical, and stylistic accuracy of the paper
- The quality of the documentation (ability to follow MLA guidelines for parenthetical and end citation)

Your research paper will include the following subtitled sections:

- Introductory Overview of the controversy (1 page)
- Summary of the Various Positions on the Controversy (2-3 pages)
- Conclusion which offers your educated opinions about the controversy, based on what you have read (1-2 pages)
- A Works Cited page (1 page)
- Hard copies of all sources cited in Works Cited page, complete with annotations on each copy.

Your research paper should be a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 pages. This does not include your Works Cited page. It is your responsibility to be present for scheduled instruction and work time allotted for this project.

Detailed Information:

1. As you look through the materials provided, choose a controversy that is important, complex, and about which you know little or nothing. If you already have a strong opinion (grounded or not) on some controversy, then leave it alone and pick something where you have no real knowledge but understand that you ought to be much more informed about it.
2. Fight the temptation to see only two sides to the controversy. You will be reading and note-taking in anticipation of writing your research paper, and the more you read, the more complicated you will find this controversy becoming. GOOD! If you do not find it becoming complicated, then you are not working hard enough. If you see simple solutions to the problems the controversy entails, then you are likewise not thinking hard enough.

3. Find as much information on this controversy as you can, including verifiable statistics, what positions various advocacy groups promote, what academics have to say about the controversy, popular media portrayal of the controversy, etc. The quality of your paper and your grade will depend on the breadth and the depth of your research, the types of sources you draw on, and on how effectively you can relay the complications you discover via your writing.

4. Tie together all you have learned once you have researched and processed enough material to come to some conclusions. Your conclusion is a first-person account of your own ideas. Again, you are not required to “take a side” if you choose not to, but you must speak intelligently and confidently about what you have discovered and why you are not yet ready to “take a side.”

**Resource Requirements:**

You will be asked to use the following types and number of sources in your paper. Hard copies of your sources will be turned in with your final draft. Do not forget to save your hard copies!

- **3 online database resources** (Opposing Viewpoints/EBSCO/World History in Context/Rosen Teen Health and Wellness)
- **2 websites that advocate** different stances on the topic you have chosen (look for sites ending in .org or .gov)
- **2 or more popular media sources** (television shows, blogs, magazines, documentary or popular films, CDs, speeches, etc.) which offer a perspective on your chosen controversy.
- **Total number of sources:** 7 or more sources.

**DUE DATES:**

- Monday March 31st: 3 articles due at the beginning of class
- Block April 2nd and 3rd: Outline and Works Cited Page (at least 3 sources listed along with hard copies) due
- Tuesday April 8th: Rough draft due
- **Tuesday April 15th:** Final copy paper along with all materials and submission to turnitin.com (paper will not be graded if not submitted to turnitin.com)

With thanks to Dr. Andrea Broomfield for resources and assistance.
1. **Writing**—
   Introductory overview (1 page) 25 pts. 
   - Hook the reader 
   - Present the topic and its complexities 
   - Historical context 

   Summary (2-3 pages) 25 pts. 
   - Research - 
   - clear organization 
   - topic sentence in each paragraph 
   - discusses the importance of the topic 
   - proper transitions between main ideas 
   - adequate use of specific support from sources 
   - meets the length requirement 
   - stays in the present tense 

   Conclusion (1-2 pages) 25 pts. 
   - Offering own opinion based on extensive research 
   - Reflect clear understanding of the issue’s dimensions 
   - First person point of view utilized; use of “I” used sparingly 

2. **Conventions** 15 pts. 
   - avoids fragments, run-ons 
   - correct pronoun/antecedent agreement, spelling, punctuation, capitalization 
   - avoids using first and second person (except in conclusion) 
   - avoids use of slang and repetition 

3. **Connection to 1984**—15 points 
   Has a clear and strong connection to 1984 

4. **Use of sources**—40 points 
   - includes valid sources 
   - copies of sources quoted and paraphrased are attached, with information highlighted 
   - paraphrasing properly cited according to instruction and MLA 

5. **Format**—10 points 
   - proper heading, spacing, and margins (MLA format) 
   - standard font (equal to 12-point Times New Roman in size) 
   - paragraph format present 

6. **Works Cited page**—15 points 
   - MLA format 
   - alphabetized; punctuated correctly; double-spaced; proper heading; indented properly 

5. **Submitted to turnitin.com**—20 points 
   Papers will NOT be graded unless submitted to turnitin.com 

6. **All rough drafts** including outlines, works cited, and research paper attached to the final 
   10 points 

**Total** 

______/200