

## The Research Paper: Honors English 110.086

The research paper will be a researched argument where you stake out a position on a food topic of your choice (approved by me). It is undeniable that food provides access and insight into the society that produces and consumes it. Some questions to consider. Do certain foods:

- Suggest an American fascination with \_\_\_\_?
- Indicate a reaction against \_\_\_\_?
- Reveal a form of escapism \_\_\_\_?
- Highlight issues such as race or gender or \_\_\_\_?
- Fill a cultural void \_\_\_\_?

Your final research paper must convince the reader that you have a valid viewpoint. It must be 9 ½ -10 pages in length, excluding the works cited page, and must have 9-11 sources. Ensure a variety of reputable sources: scholarly books, journal articles, newspapers, other journalistic sources, Internet sources (dot org, dot gov, and dot edu are usually reputable, as are online databases, etc.), and/or government or special interest publications (foundation pamphlets, think-tank publications, advocacy groups, etc.). One source can be an interview with an authority from the University of Delaware or local area (professor, coach, administrator, civic leader, etc.). Most sources should be current (within the last eight years, i.e., from 2008 to present). Your use of sources should be roughly balanced: you should not have 90% of your citations come from 1 or 2 sources. You must have at least one book (hard copy, print) and a number of refereed (peer-reviewed) journal articles. Ensure salient quotes correctly integrated into your text as well as paraphrases.

A good paper will contain, in some sequence or other, the following:

- An engaging introduction
- Clearly defined terms, if needed
- Clearly stated thesis (assertion, claim, position, etc.)
- Evidence supporting the thesis
- Counterargument(s)
- Responses or rebuttals to the counterargument(s)
- Good closure

Of course, effective organization, correct grammar, and correct format/documentation are also included in the overall grading. Correct MLA format and documentation are an important part of your research paper. Please invest the time to ensure proper MLA citing of sources in-text and in your works cited section. (Review the many examples in *Arak*.) The final research paper is due (hard copy) 16 May 2016 (Mon).

Some Possible Food and Culture Research Topics:

- Coffee and the pickers/workers?
- Culinary “imperialism”?
- Food trunks/carts: The rage?
- “Forbidden” foods?
- The politicization of food?
- Etc.
- Celebrity chefs: the new superstar?
- Pretty foods and food dyes?
- Food fads?
- Where’s the camel milk?