**English IV Gifted Research Term Paper**

**DON’T PANIC.**

Throughout the semester, we will be working on a research paper in and out of class. This paper will prepare you for the work you will need to do in college in several ways. It will help you build your research skills, train you to sort your information into clear categories, and guide you through taking information from different sources in order to create an effective, well-organized research paper.

**REALLY, DON’T PANIC.**

You are writing an argumentative research paper, which means that you will be required to take a stance on a topic. Your argumentative research paper will address a controversial topic that affects the world today. Try to stay away from typical research topics like birth control, the legalization of marijuana, gun control, abortion, and the death penalty. Once you have chosen a solid topic (something we will work on in class), you will address the following three issues:

1. A review of the issue and why it’s controversial.
2. What experts on both sides of the issue say about it. (If it’s a controversial topic, I promise you there will be arguments for both sides.)
3. A proposed solution for the issue. (This is where your argument comes in – you have to be knowledgeable enough about the topic to intelligently propose an effective and realistic solution.)

**SERIOUSLY, TAKE A DEEP BREATH.**

The paper consists of several components that will come together to form a research portfolio at the end of the semester. I will introduce the components and explain them in depth as they come up, but this is what will form your portfolio:

1. Eight articles on your topic + one book on your topic
2. Annotated bibliography for every source
3. Project proposal and the work that goes into creating that proposal
4. Three paper process check-in narratives (This is nothing intense, just a piece of writing that tells me what you’ve done so far, what you need to do, how you plan to do it, and what you need from me.)
5. Source & topic notecards
6. Paper outline
7. Paper rough draft with self edits marked
8. Teacher conference form and notes (We will sit down and discuss your paper. You’ll get individualized feedback from me about what you need to do to improve your paper.)
9. Paper rough draft with peer edits marked
10. 8-10 page paper final draft (Trust me, you’ll find five to seven pages of information. You’ll also have done enough research to create a clearly argumentative solution to the problem your issue poses.)

**YOU’LL BE OKAY, I PROMISE.**

So what’s the first step? Let’s start brainstorming topics. You need to decide what you’re interested in and if there is enough information about it for you to write a 5 – 7 page paper. Complete the topic exploration guide provided and turn it in on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**WE’RE TAKING THIS STEP BY STEP. DON’T FREAK OUT.**

**SERIOUSLY. STOP.**