The purpose of this project is to research various current topics in the Middle East. You have been given 11 different topics to choose from and you can also create your own. Some of the topics are difficult and will require you to do some background reading to fully understand the general nature of the topic. All of your research, sources, notecards and paper outline will be kept in Noodle Tools and shared with Mr. Emmons.

**Thesis Paper**

A thesis paper is a paper that answers a question. For example, “Is Israel a stabilizing force in the Middle East?” Your thesis statement would be: “Israel is a stabilizing force in the Middle East.” Here are the requirements:

- **Length:** A minimum of 5 pages. This does not include the Work Cited Page. It should not exceed 10 pages.
- **Format:** MLA format. This include MLA citation format. Any facts or data pulled from your sources must be cited. Use Times Roman, 12 point font. Use 1 inch margins. Double spaced lines.
- **Outline:** You will be required to complete an outline of your paper before writing your first draft. The outline will be created in Noodle Tools.
- **Sources:** You will be required to have at least 5 sources for your paper. I would recommend that at least one of the sources is a resource book or encyclopedia. Since these are current event topics, many of your sources will be new and journal articles.

The first page of your paper should include a title and it should be at the top of the first page and it should be underlined. Your thesis statement should be in your first paragraph. It is often the first sentence in your introductory paragraph. A research paper also has a concluding paragraph, which relates back to the introduction. Basically, your concluding paragraph is the answer to your thesis. Your paper will be a minimum of 5 pages in length. It should be organized according to your outline. Most of you will probably exceed 5 pages, but try to keep it within 10 pages. You will also use MLA format. That means that it will also include a “Works Cited Page.” Use double spaces between lines, but no extra spaces between paragraphs. Your margins should be 1” all the way around. For your research sources, I suggest you use at least one general information book or encyclopedia. But, many of your citations will probably be websites with current event information.

**Your Grade on this Research Paper**

You will be graded on three parts of this project:

1. The number and quality of your sources (bibliography) and your notecards.
2. Your outline. Did you organize your topic and did you include major sub-topics
3. Your draft and final paper. The rubric for your final paper is attached.
RESEARCH GRADING RUBRIC

Rubric:

- The number and quality of your sources (notecards) __________ 20 points
- The organization and detail of your outline __________ 20 points
- Did you meet the paper length and format requirements? __________ 10 points
- Did you properly cite your sources and include Work Cited page? __________ 10 points
- Is your paper well organized? __________ 10 points
- Did you use proper grammar, spelling and complete sentences __________ 10 points
- Did you paper contain enough content, facts and research? __________ 20 points

Total possible points: __________ 100 points

Bonus (how well you used class time and did you collaborate with your peers): __________ 10 points

Comments: ____________________________

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