CSI Senior Capstone Research Essay Assignment

Overview
Write an expository research essay that explains your investigation of a question or problem you are curious about that directly relates to your Senior Capstone Project. You will collect information from books, electronic sources, interviews, questionnaires, or other sources that will be displayed and analyzed as evidence. You will develop a purpose (thesis) for the paper that will guide its direction and overall focus.

You will use the research paper resources, including the *Research Paper Planner*, linked at MrFeldkamp.com to guide your independent process from research to writing to submission. Class time will be provided, and I am here to guide you through the process.

Length
The final paper must be a minimum 2000 words (approximately 4-6 pages) in MLA format. Works cited is not included in word count.

Citations
To avoid plagiarism, you will need to include citations in your paper. Citations include paraphrases and direct quotes (full and partial, long and short).

You will need the following:
- ☐ a minimum of three short direct quotes (full or partial)
- ☐ one (minimum) or two (maximum) long quotes (may not be longer than 6 lines)
- ☐ a minimum of two paraphrases
- ☐ Must contain a minimum of five different sources.
- ☐ Must use at least two Internet sources.
- ☐ Must have at least one non-internet source
- ☐ May use no more than one encyclopedia-type source (No Wikipedia!)
- ☐ Must be in MLA format

Plagiarized papers will receive a ZERO, will likely result in a failing grade for the quarter, and will negate the possibility of receiving a CSI graduation cord.

Your paper will be submitted via TurnItIn.com

Source Reliability
General Information:
Discovering pertinent, useful, and reliable information is critical in any research project. As the researcher, you must approach each source with a critical eye. Ask yourself several questions about the source:
1) Who wrote the information? Is this person considered an expert in a particular field of study? Does the source include a biography of the author? Where did the author receive his or her education? If there is no credited author, how do you know the information is reliable?
2) Does the article or book include an introduction? Is there a precise or abstract that explains the author's intent?

3) When was the website, book, article, journal published? If a website, when was it last updated and is there information about who maintains the web site?

4) Does the author list a source of information? Look at the end of a book, article, web site. Do you find a bibliography or works cited section? Review this information. Do the author's sources appear scholarly?

5) How can I use the information that I find? Will it support my thesis? Why is each source important?

6) If in doubt of a source's reliability, ask me or your project adviser for help

Your final product will…

…be a minimum 2000 words of impeccably edited, properly formatted, and thoroughly researched information. It will begin with an introduction that sets forth a purpose, flow smoothly with transitions, and end with a satisfying conclusion.

Timeline:

☐ **CHECKPOINT #1**: Thesis statement – graded - Friday, March 6th

☐ Design research strategy – by Friday, March 6th

☐ Research your topic. Find, review, and evaluate a variety of sources Monday, March 9th - Friday, March 13th

☐ Outline or Describe overall structure by Thursday, March 12th

☐ **CHECKPOINT #2** (optional, strongly recommended) – have Mr. Feldkamp or pathway teacher review your Outline or Description by Thursday, March 12th

☐ Write 1st draft by Sunday, March 22nd

☐ **CHECKPOINT #3**: In-class Peer Review – <u>graded</u> - must have a typed, printed, working draft with at least the minimum requirements for credit on Monday, March 23rd

☐ Conduct additional research as necessary

☐ Revise, Rewrite, Rework by Wednesday, March 25th

☐ **CHECKPOINT #4**: In-class Peer Review – <u>graded</u> - must have a typed, revised, printed draft of essay for credit on Wednesday, March 25th

☐ Put paper in final form by Sunday, March 29th

☐ **FINAL CHECKPOINT**: Submit paper via www.turnitin.com by Sunday, March 29th, *no later* than 8:00pm

The TurnItIn.com window for final paper submission will be open from Wednesday, March 25th until Sunday, March 29th.