

Research Paper

Content Area: **English Language Arts**
Course(s): **Generic Course**
Time Period: **5 weeks**
Length: **5 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

Students will examine and analyze a literary text and develop an MLA style research paper on a literary device. Students will learn how to make an analytical argument that they will prove using primary and secondary sources. Students will develop a thesis statement, source cards, note cards, and communication skills. Students will utilize technology to draft a final research paper and works cited page.

Transfer

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

- Research a Literary Topic
- Compile and analyze information
- Develop source cards for compiled information
- Develop note cards to assist in writing the paper
- Compose a rough draft
- Use communication skills to conference with teacher and peers
- Draft a Works Cited page in proper MLA format
- Compose a research paper according to MLA format

Meaning

Understandings

Students will understand...

- The importance of researching and writing a paper
- How to evaluate information and make inferences
- How to write a thesis statement and prove it
- Proper MLA format
- The purpose of source/note cards
- How to outline information
- How to proofread and edit a paper

- How to avoid plagiarism

Essential Questions

Students will consider...

- What is the process of developing a research paper according to MLA format?
- What is the proper ratio between fact and opinions in a research paper?
- What are the components of an effective thesis statement?

Application of Knowledge and Skill

Students will know...

Students will know...

- How to effectively use the Library Media Center to look for literary criticisms and other resources
- How to navigate databases to find literary criticisms and other resources
- How to develop a thesis statement
- How to cite in MLA format both on a Works Cited page and parenthetically
- How to organize and outline information
- How to draft a paper and prove the thesis using both primary and secondary sources
- How to edit and peer edit drafts to develop a final copy

Students will be skilled at...

Students will be skilled at...

- Utilizing the components of the writing process
- Analyzing and revising writing to improve style, focus and organization
- Distinguishing between fact and opinion

- Creating properly balanced paragraphs
- Writing introductions and conclusions
- Writing an effective thesis statement with a topic and claim
- Citing sources in MLA format
- Proofreading and editing

Academic Vocabulary

Academic Vocabulary should be vocabulary words that apply specifically to the research paper that students will need to understand in order to complete all components of the paper. Terms students should know are:

- MLA Format
- Citation
- Works Cited
- Source Cards
- Note Cards
- Outline
- Rough Draft
- Literary Analysis
- Thesis statement
- Plagiarism
- Proofread
- Edit

Learning Goal 1

By the end of this unit, students will be able to take notes, paraphrase, quote and cite research material to be used in a literary research paper.

Objective 1 - How to research--(Identify Level of Difficulty)

SWBAT:

- Determine valid and credible resources
- Evaluate and document sources
- Notice and apply meaning to symbolic representations in a literary work
- Use a variety of research tools to reach a conclusion on the literary work of choice

LA.W.11-12.1.A	Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
LA.W.11-12.7	Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
LA.W.11-12.8	Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation. (MLA or APA Style Manuals).
LA.W.11-12.9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
LA.RI.11-12.7	Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.
LA.RL.11-12.1	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RL.11-12.10a	By the end of grade 11, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems at grade level text-complexity or above with scaffolding as needed.

Objective 2 - MLA format--(Identify Level of Difficulty)

SWBAT:

- Create and utilize in-text citation
- Adhere to MLA formatting guidelines
- Ensure that the in-text citations correspond to the works cited page

LA.W.11-12.5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
LA.W.11-12.7	Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
LA.W.11-12.8	Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation. (MLA or APA Style Manuals).
LA.W.11-12.9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
LA.SL.11-12.3	Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used.
LA.11-12.SL.11-12.2	Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among

the data.

Objective 3 - Teach organizational tools(note cards, outlines)--(Identify Level of Difficulty)

SWBAT:

- Identify and demonstrate effective note taking skills

LA.W.11-12.2.B	Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
LA.W.11-12.2.D	Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.
LA.W.11-12.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.11-12.5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
LA.W.11-12.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.
LA.W.11-12.8	Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation. (MLA or APA Style Manuals).
LA.W.11-12.9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
LA.RI.11-12.1	Accurately cite strong and thorough textual evidence, (e.g., via discussion, written response, etc.), to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RI.11-12.2	Determine two or more central ideas of a text, and analyze their development and how they interact to provide a complex analysis; provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RI.11-12.3	Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop over the course of the text.
LA.RI.11-12.7	Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.
LA.RL.11-12.1	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RL.11-12.2	Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RL.11-12.3	Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).

LA.RL.11-12.10a	By the end of grade 11, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems at grade level text-complexity or above with scaffolding as needed.
LA.SL.11-12.4	Present information, findings and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically. The content, organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Learning Goal 2

Students will utilize the research and notetaking skills they have developed to compose a literary research paper. Students should properly cite in MLA format both on a Works Cited page and parenthetically to avoid plagiarism.

LA.W.11-12.1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
LA.W.11-12.1.B	Develop claim(s) and counterclaims avoiding common logical fallacies and using sound reasoning and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases.
LA.W.11-12.2.A	Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
LA.W.11-12.2.B	Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
LA.W.11-12.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.11-12.5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
LA.W.11-12.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.
LA.W.11-12.7	Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
LA.W.11-12.8	Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation. (MLA or APA Style Manuals).
LA.W.11-12.9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Objective 4 - The writing process--(Identify Level of Difficulty)

SWBAT:

Compile and compose an organized, well developed final paper.

LA.W.11-12.1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
LA.W.11-12.1.A	Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
LA.W.11-12.1.B	Develop claim(s) and counterclaims avoiding common logical fallacies and using sound reasoning and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases.
LA.W.11-12.1.C	Use transitions (e.g., words, phrases, clauses) to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.
LA.W.11-12.1.D	Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
LA.W.11-12.1.E	Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the argument presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).
LA.W.11-12.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
LA.W.11-12.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.11-12.5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
LA.W.11-12.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.
LA.W.11-12.10	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes.

Summative Assessment

Final Research Paper

21st Century Life and Careers

CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP7	Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.

Formative Assessment and Performance Opportunities

- Class Discussion
- Conferencing
- Drafting
- Note cards
- Outlines
- Peer editing
- Resources
- Source Cards
- Teacher Observation
- Works Cited pages

Accomodations/ Modifications

- Additional time
- Allow a research project in place of paper
- Modified length/amount of sources required
- Supplemental materials
- Use graphic organizers
- Use visual aids

Unit Resources

- [Teacher and Student Guide](#)
 - [What makes a good literary topic?](#)
 - [Teaching Literary Analysis](#)
 - [The Process](#)
 - [Topic Ideas](#)
 - [Sample Essays](#)
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- Additional handouts
 - Databases
 - MLA handbook

- Research Paper Packet
- Varied sources from the Library
- Variety of sample writings