**Guidelines for the Graduation Research Paper**

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| 1. The research-based paper can be constructed from any genre, as specified by the English teacher, including but not limited to:   * Expository * Compare and Contrast * Cause and Effect * Argumentative (Persuasive) * Critical Review * Analytical * Literary   2. Each paper must cite a minimum of **five** different sources. Encyclopedias and other general resources are not acceptable, including current, technological reference bundles. Students should strive for variety and balance in their selections.  3. Papers should be approximately six (6) to eight (8) pages of text, typed and double-spaced. The Works Cited page is in addition. Use Times New Roman font. The first page should have a header, and every page except the first should be numbered. The student will create a visual to enhance the paper using information found in the research process. The visual MUST be student-created and no larger than 1/3 of a page.  4. **The thesis statement should be in bold-faced type.**  5. Sources must include at least one primary source, such as original documents, authoritative interviews, or analytical data based on interviews. Primary sources add immediacy and relevance to the research. Students whose primary sources are individuals should note in the text or annotate in the works cited entry the person’s area of expertise. **NOTE: Students should identify primary sources with bold-faced type in the list of works cited.**  6. Students must carefully document all research information they cite in their papers. This should include internal citations within the paper and a list of works cited at the end of the paper. Students will use the most recent edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* for guidelines for appropriate documentation.  7. Research should take a variety of forms, primary and secondary, traditional and non-traditional. Students may design, administer, and analyze surveys, conduct interviews of experts, access on-line databases, or consult portable database products. Students should tailor the type of research to their topic of research to ensure a reasonable balance of sources.  8. Students are expected to complete a rough draft, final draft and reflection by the dates assigned. These items will go in the Graduation Project portfolio that the student puts together in senior year and is graded during the senior board presentations.  **Plagiarism is a serious concern in writing a research paper and there are consequences when students plagiarize. At Butler, a student who is found to have plagiarized will receive a 0 on the paper and could be suspended for up to 2 days.** |