

REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL INDEPENDENT STUDY PAPER

Ag II

This is a department requirement. Failure to complete this paper in an acceptable manner will result in a failure of the Agriculture Program.

PURPOSE The purpose is to allow the student to research and study an area of interest in agriculture generated from the CAPT Science standards and embedded tasks. It is designed to develop the student's ability to compose a persuasive paper using the proper techniques of research, study and English skills. It should represent independent study and be at the level of proficiency expected of that student based upon grade level.

1. **LENGTH** –Ag II students- 1,200 words (3-4 pages, typed in 12 point font, standard margins, double-spaced). These are the minimum number of words required, but the student should use the number of words required to cover the subject.
2. **WORKS CITED** – This is a listing of all references used in studying for this research paper and will be the final page of this paper. Proper MLA format is found on the MHS Library website. References must be current and you must cite at least one book and multiple electronic and non-electronic sources. There **MUST BE A MINIMUM OF FOUR (4)** references. You will be provided with two of them, and must find at least two more quality sources.
3. **DUE DATES:**
 - a. **RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC** – on or before **September 16, 2011**. A topic will be assigned to you if you have not selected one for yourself.
 - b. **INFORMATION SOURCE SHEETS** – on or before **September 28, 2011**. Format will be provided in leadership class. Must include all three references and be in proper form.
 - c. **COMPLETED OUTLINE** – on or before **October 11, 2011**. Format will be provided in leadership class. A basic outline of the paper's structure and key points.
 - d. **BEST DRAFT** – Must be submitted on or before **October 21, 2011**. The paper should be close to completion: typed, include parenthetical citations and works cited page. If not turned in on time, five (5) points will be deducted from the quarter grade. A **FIRST DRAFT MUST** be turned in.
 - e. **FINAL DRAFT** – Must be submitted on or before **November 21, 2011**. Must be typed, include parenthetical citations and works cited. Should be double spaced in a 12 point font. If not turned in on time, five (5) points from quarter grade will be deducted. Up to thirty (30) points can be deducted from grade of paper if not turned in on time.

AG II PERSUASIVE RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS

You are to choose ONE of the following topics for your Persuasive Research Paper:

Bioengineered Foods

Biofuels

Brownfield Sites

Descriptions of each topic and tasks are as follows:

THE ISSUE: BIOENGINEERED FOODS

Should Bioengineered Foods be mandated and required by law to have a label? Many of the food products we purchase at the grocery store have special symbols and labels so a consumer can easily identify the items we are buying. Food labels may read “natural,” “fresh,” “organic,” “gluten free,” or “contains nuts” for example. Some labeling is required by law. Labeling bioengineered food is not required in all states. One of the biggest issues in the ongoing debate over bioengineered foods is whether they should be labeled in order to protect the public’s right-to-know privileges. Those opposed to labeling may argue that foods have been modified for centuries, are safe and that labeling may cause public panic.

You will research this topic and explore articles for and against labeling of genetically modified foods, and take a position for or against the labeling of genetically modified foods. On June 23, 2010, an amendment was proposed (H.R. Genetically Engineered Food 5577: Right to Know Act) to the current Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the Federal Meat Inspection Act, and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to require that food that contains a genetically engineered material, or that is produced with a genetically engineered material, be labeled accordingly. Using information from **both** articles provided to you (and your own resources), you must form your own educated opinion. You are to write a persuasive letter to your congressional representative either in favor of or opposition to required labeling of genetically engineered foods.

THE ISSUE: BIOFUELS

Should biofuels (ethanol, biodiesel) be used as a fuel instead of traditional fossil fuels (diesel fuel/ gasoline)? In recent years bio-based fuels have become popular fuel source options for many farmers, industries and the general public. Some people and industry experts are strong proponents of biofuel use and claim they are a viable option to our dependency on fossil fuels. Others claim that biofuels are harmful and pose long term risks to our food supply, agriculture and the environment, which limits their use as a viable alternative to fossil fuels.

You will research this topic and explore articles for and against the use of biofuels and take a position for or against the use of bio based fuels as an alternative fuel source. Your local environmental protection agency is considering strongly supporting the use of biofuels in agriculture, industry and for the general public. Using information from **both** articles provided to you (and your own resources) you must write a persuasive letter to your local environmental agency either supporting or opposing the use of biofuels as a viable alternative fuel source for agriculture, industry and the general public.

THE ISSUE: BROWNFIELD SITES

What is the best plan for revitalizing the Remington Factory and landfill? More than 290 sites in Connecticut have been identified as “Brownfield Sites.” These are parcels of property once used for industrial, commercial or manufacturing and are now abandoned due to potential or suspected contamination. Often times these sites are located in economically depressed areas and negatively affect the quality of living in that area. They sometimes pose potential health and safety risks to local residents. Financial assistance is available from the state and federal governments to assess and remediate these sites. Many communities and private companies have taken advantage of these funds to revitalize “Brownfield Sites”. Many areas that were once brownfield sites are now home to commercial sites, retail shopping, museums and parks.

You will research this topic and explore articles that discuss different plans for revitalizing “Brownfield Sites”, and make recommendations for a revitalization plan. The site in the Northern section of Middletown that contains the abandoned Remington Factory and the old landfill has been identified as a potential ‘brownfield site’. A committee of local government officials is working on a proposal for revitalizing the area. Using information from **both** articles provided to you (and your own resources) your task is to research and identify a plan for revitalizing the 10 acre landfill. Then write a persuasive letter to the committee describing your proposal and convincing them to accept it.

AG II PERSUASIVE RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC FORM

Name: _____ Due Date: **September 16, 2011**

Topic (Subject): _____

Title: (Statement of Purpose; ie: What position will you be making about your topic?)
For Example: "Bioengineered Foods: The Best Thing Since Sliced Bread "

Write a brief statement in the space below describing what your paper will be about. This statement should include the topic and content. **Be specific:** what do you hope to learn, and/or teach others about?

Use the "question words:" who, what, where, when, how and why.

Where do you plan to look for your source material? For example, ag classroom, library, databases, etc. ("Internet," "Google" and "Wikipedia" don't count!)
