Harry Potter

Essay

*Harry Potter* is of great literary value to younger children, but we can challenge ourselves with this work as well. You will write a 5-8 page research paper connecting *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* to a larger historical concept. Remember the web quest from the beginning of the unit? Well, this is where that will come in handy—the topics listed below connect to the Renaissance website we reviewed. Select the topic you found to be most interesting to work as the general topic for your research paper.

Topics:

* Potions/Herbology & Connection to Renaissance History
* Monsters/Magical Creatures/Fantastic Beasts & Connections to Renaissance History
* Immortality/Life of the Series & Connections to History
* Linguistics/Historical Connections
* Once you’ve established your topic, you’ll want to begin developing a general thesis. For example, if I picked Linguistics/Historical Connections, I might develop a general thesis resembling this: *In* Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone, *J.K. Rowling uses Greek and Latin roots to create terms used in the magical world.*

\*I refer to this as a *general thesis* because I know it might change or develop further as I begin my research. Now I have a narrow field to research, but I’m open to reshaping this thesis as I learn more about the topic.

* Next I’ll actually begin researching. I prefer to start with Google, but you may begin wherever you feel comfortable. Use our library resources, such as the online Encyclopedia, to find scholarly articles. If you look at the requirements below, you’ll notice that you can only use two websites. This means you’ll need to specify on your search engine that you’re looking for scholarly articles.
* Once you find the articles and websites that you’ll be using, print the information you need. Be cautious—if it’s a 20 page article and you only need five of those pages, just print those five pages. HOWEVER, make sure you have all the information you need for that article. Write down the author’s name, copyright information, publisher, website you found it. In fact, the best thing for you to do is save the site to your favorites, save the article as a favorite article on the search site, or copy the entire article and paste it into a Microsoft Word document.
* Next, take your printed article and read it. Highlight the important information you think may be useful. Organize your articles according to topic. I simply paper clip them together. For example, I would put all of my linguistic information in one pile, and then bundle my historical connection information separately.
* Now it’s time to solidify your thesis. Decide upon the exact wording you will use. For example my general thesis, “*In* Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone, *J.K. Rowling uses Greek and Latin roots to create terms used in the magical world”* might become, *In* Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone, *J.K. Rowling uses Greek and Latin roots as well as early features of archaic languages to create terms used in the magical world which allow young readers to develop their linguistic skills, especially in terms of prefixes, suffixes, and root words.*
* Now begin outlining. I will provide you with a general format for outlining. Complete this to the highest degree. Remember, this is really your first draft of your paper. Don’t short yourself; it will make your job more difficult later.
* Once your outline is complete, have it checked. Bring it to me, the Writing Lab, or a friend who is skilled in English (not your bestie who’ll be nice…the one who will tell you what sounds idiotic.)
* Then begin drafting. Write using your outline. You forgot it at home?!? Make a new outline before beginning or your paper will crumble.
* Have your paper proofed at the Writing Lab. If you have specific questions, bring it to me and I will help you pinpoint those specific questions.
* Correct your errors.
* Have your paper proofed a second time. This time, you do it. And read it out loud—you’ll catch more errors that way.
* Correct your errors.
* Submit your paper.

Requirements:

* 5-8 pages in length with MLA Format
* Must have 6 sources total—all information must be printed, highlighted, and compiled with your drafts
  + One must be Harry Potter
  + Two may be websites
  + Three must be scholarly articles
* Must provide an accurate Works Cited page
* Must provide in-text citations, properly cited to avoid plagiarism
* Must provide an outline, rough draft, second draft, and final draft to be graded
* Must address both topics listed
* Must be grammatically and mechanically sound
* No personal pronouns
* No contractions