**US History Honor**

**Research Paper**

For this quarter, our paper will be slightly different. For the last two papers, I have given you a question which you have answered as your thesis. For this paper, there will be two additional steps: outside research and an original thesis.

STEP ONE: Topic

Your topic can be anything that is relevant to American Studies with some historical component. In other words, you could write a paper on the music of the 1930s and how it affected the Depression, but you cannot write a paper on how Taylor Swift is contributing to the American culture of 2013. The key word is HISTORICAL ☺

STEP TWO: Research

We will spend TWO days in the library and the rest will be on your own time so please plan accordingly as the regular workload in class will continue. First, you will conduct some “presearch” on your topic. Read at least two articles or websites on your topic and come up with three questions you have about it.

**The questions will be due via email by the Tuesday morning after vacation**.

Then you will continue to research in the library and on your own. Please consult at least FIVE sources and limit your websites to only TWO websites. (online databases are not websites.)

STEP THREE: Thesis

After you have conducted more than half of your research, you will come up with a research question. Your answer to that will be your thesis. For example: Why was Ronald Reagan able to escape the Iran Contra Affair with little damage to his reputation? Thesis=Ronald Reagan had outstanding communication skills which helped his constituents see past his indiscretions and accept his apology.

**Your thesis will be due via WRITING on a notecard by Monday March 11**

STEP FOUR: Outline

This piece I will only check if you make an appointment to come and see me. I suggest having someone look over your outline to make sure that your arguments support your thesis and that you have good evidence to back it up, but this does not need to be me.

STEP FIVE: Final Paper

For your final paper there will be a few requirements. I recommend you write at least two drafts.

a. at least three cited sources in your paper (quotes or paraphrases)

b. a bibliography

c. proof that you had a draft reviewed at the writing center

**Your final paper will be due on Friday March 23rd. I will NOT accept late papers unless we have discussed this at least one week prior to the due date or unless there are extenuating circumstances.**