

# RESEARCH

## Brace yourselves:

Research paper season is finally upon us, and while it can be grueling, it can also be enjoyable and rewarding. In this article, I will go over some tips and tricks for writing a good paper, some teacher's opinions on paper topics and the educational value of writing papers.

## Tips and Tricks:

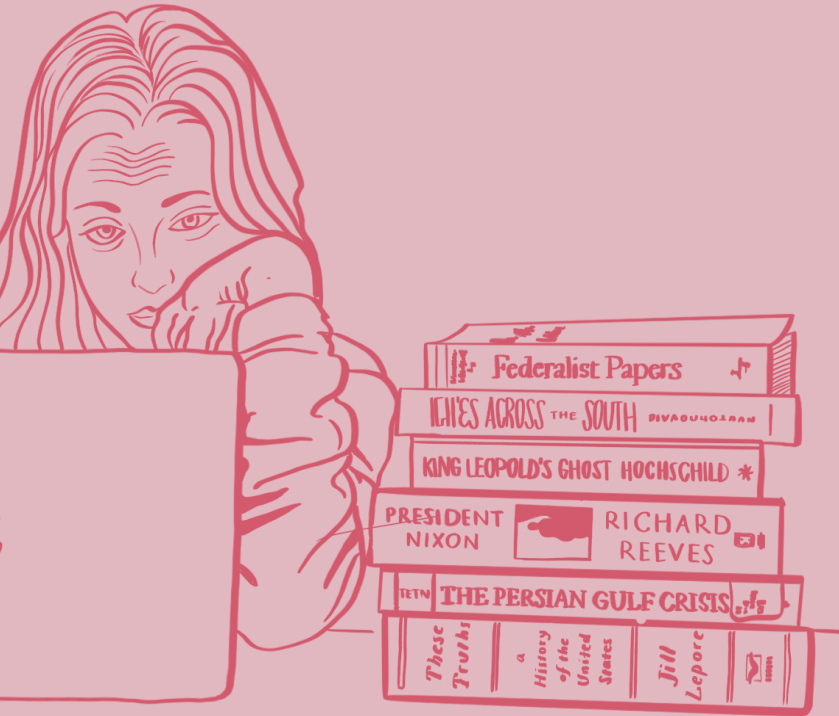
Despite excellent instruction from our teachers, there are many little pieces of advice for writing a research paper that can be useful and save a lot of time and effort. When I asked the History Department Chair and history teacher, Ms. Gina Halverson, she had some great feedback, "...Start early, don't procrastinate, use time in class, even though it's a long process, there's a reason we start early." Writing is a process that can take a lot of time and energy, so it's important to manage your time well from the start. Additionally, the research paper is a fun time to explore new topics, and having a topic that you are passionate about will make the process of writing more enjoyable. "[You] really want to see it as an opportunity instead of drudgery" as Ms. Halverson says.

## Why The Paper Is Important:

Though students may find the research paper tedious, it does grant several benefits that might need to be clarified. First, the paper allows students to explore an interest in a unique and research-oriented way. The topic might not be the only thing you're graded on, but it certainly can change the way one thinks about writing and research. Second, the paper is a preparational tool for students, as Ms. Halverson remarks, "... I think in this case we are truly preparing kids for college." It's important to foster applicable skills in writing, both through a grammatical and an analytical approach. The skills one acquires about writing in high school stick, and the progression of skills over the years is a valuable way to be more efficient and successful.



# PAPER



## How do papers change over the years?

Over the three required years of history at Kent Denver, the parameters of the paper and the topics change for the students. For example, ninth grade focuses on the basics of writing papers, with skills like cohesive theses, document analysis and incorporating primary documents into the paper well. Then, tenth and eleventh grade evolves the skillset more, looking at nuance, passive voice, strong analysis and of course, looking at other historians and writing about their views. Lastly, with a fun end to high school in AP Euro you, “break all the rules” as history teacher Mr. Lee Barrow says. The regulation of topics has become less strict over the years, which is vital to engaging students and readers.



## What are your thoughts?

What are your thoughts on the paper? Is it the most arduous time of the year? Is it daunting? Is it exciting? To me, it's all of these things, but I have fun learning more about a unique topic each year, and I hope this article has inspired hope in people who loathe writing.

season

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