

* 3 REASONS FOR A RESEARCH PROJECT:

1. prepare for Junior research
2. show what others have said regarding your topic
3. show what you feel is important regarding your topic



* STEPS FOR RESEARCH:

A. **Select a subject:** Begin with an interesting subject taking into consideration your interests, your project's purpose, and your audience. *In this case, you will be researching the steps to a fulfilled, satisfied life.*

B. **Get an overview of your subject:** Use the library and computer lab's resources, read articles, and scan books to give you a broad [general] understanding of the subject.

C. **Limit your subject to a suitable topic:** Narrow down your general subject so that your research focuses on a specific topic regarding that subject. For this paper, the subject of "steps to a fulfilled, satisfied life" needs to be narrowed down further. For instance, your topic could be something like this: "Serving Others: the Pathway to a Happy Life." It's much more specific and narrow.

D. **Develop a Thesis Statement:** This is simply one or two sentences which clearly state what you plan to accomplish in your paper, accompanied by a *counter-argument*. Example: "*Though some deem money as the main requirement for happiness, the truth is that finding the right career can lead to a fulfilled and satisfied life. It is clearly more important to find a job which will allow you to ¹use the talents you have, ²reward you for diligence and loyalty, and ³value your input and opinions.*" Your thesis statement will show 3 elements of your *narrowed* topic which assure a fulfilled, satisfied life. Write yours:

E. **Locate sources and gather information:** From the library's resources and the internet, you can gather specific information which conforms to your thesis statement, and shows proof that your assertions are true and backed up. This is the "research" part of the research project.

F. **Make 3 Source Sheets with notes:** On the sheets Mr. King provides for you, neatly hand-write all the bibliographical information for each of your sources. See the examples in this packet. On the source sheets, under the MLA style citation, take notes on material that relates directly to the purpose of your research [your thesis statement]. You must have two paraphrases and one quote for each source sheet.

G. **Write the Intro Page:** You must write at least two large paragraphs: the first is the introductory discussion with your Thesis Statement. The second starts with a topic sentence or *transitional sentence*, and is the beginning of the paper's explanation. It should only begin discussing the first element of your thesis statement's 3 elements.

H. **Write a Works Cited page:** This—along with in-text parenthetical notes—gives credit to the authors whose ideas you borrowed (sources), and allows you to avoid plagiarism.

* SOME TRUTHS AND EXPECTATIONS regarding your research paper:

Your research paper will...

- ☞ be a **completely original treatment** of your narrowed down topic.
- ☞ take you several hours to complete, so work diligently.
- ☞ be due on Friday, May 19th. That means you have plenty of time; just don't procrastinate, because time flies!
- ☞ require EACH paragraph to have a parenthetical note... some citation to show that this is a research effort, not merely your opinion.
- ☞ be worth 100 points. That's huge!
- ☞ be written in Times-New Roman style, 12-point font, with one-inch margins, double-spaced. **No exceptions.**
- ☞ be written about the steps to a fulfilled, satisfied life.

Example of a Source Sheet

Many universities require a "Source Sheet" to show sources and notes for research papers. Simply write the MLA style citation for a source at the top of the page, and bullet all the notes that you acquire from that source beneath that citation. Notice the following example source sheet from a physical magazine:

Source Sheet # 1

MLA Citation: CARR, DEBORAH. "Happy MARRAIGE, Happy Life?"
MARRAIGE AND FAMILY, SEPT. 2014: 133-139.

NOTES:

Quote: "I THINK IT COMES DOWN TO THE FACT THAT WHEN A
WIFE IS SATISFIED WITH THE MARRAIGE, SHE TENDS TO DO
A LOT MORE FOR HER HUSBAND, WHICH HAS A POSITIVE
EFFECT ON HIS LIFE." PROF. D. CARR, P. 137.

Paraphrase: PROF. CARR SAYS THAT BEING IN A BETTER-RATED
MARRAIGE WAS LINKED TO GREATER LIFE SATISFACTION AND
HAPPINESS FOR BOTH SPOUSES.

Paraphrase: STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT HEALTH INCREASES IF THE
MARRAIGE IS A HAPPY ONE. A HAPPY MARRAIGE OR
PARTNERSHIP COULD REDUCE THE RISK OF CARDIOVASCULAR
DISEASE.

Notice that all the notes that came from this source are jotted down on this source sheet. By the way, can you spot the misspelled word?

Example of The Introduction Page: This section of the paper is the actual beginning of the discussion of your thesis. Your introduction is usually about a page long. Notice that in paragraph ONE of my introduction, I have discussed the main gist of my thesis, and have given credit TWICE in this paragraph.

The Pathway to a Happy and Joyous Existence Through Better Employment

“The worst day on vacation is better than the best day at work” (Williamson 33). Almost anyone who has ever put in a full day’s work would attest to this truism. But how do we make our lives—even the days we work—feel like we are on vacation? It is a marvelous thing to have a job which feels less like work and more like vacation. A blissful job would certainly assure a fulfilled, gratified life. But few of us have the luck to accidentally land such a position. Making certain we adhere to several elements of successful job hunting, however, can result in scoring a job which is a walk in the park at best, and is tolerable at the least. ***Though some deem money as the main requirement for happiness, the truth is that finding the right career can lead to a fulfilled and satisfied life. It is clearly more important to find a job which will allow you to use the talents you have, reward you for diligence and loyalty, and value your input and opinions”*** (Gunther).

Notice that I end my paragraph with a parenthetical notation. This indicates that some of the ideas expressed in this introductory paragraph came from a source other than my brain. End ALL of your paragraphs with a citation!

The above is paragraph one of a strong introductory page. Notice it begins with a quote from one of my sources [a very strong beginning in any research paper], and has touched on the points delineated in my thesis statement.

Notice also that my text is DOUBLE-SPACED!

The next paragraph should finish discussing your thesis in general, and can begin to discuss the first example or step to a fulfilling life. The next pages—were you to write them—would begin to discuss, in great detail and elaboration, the remaining examples which prove your thesis.

Example of your Works Cited page:

Works Cited

Carr, Deborah. "Happy Marriage, Happy Life?" *Marriage and Family*, Sept. 2014: 133-139.

Gunther, Elaine. *Becoming Gloriously Happy*. New York: DelRay Books, Inc. 2010.

Williams, James H. "The Flight of the Family." *Psychology Today* 4 May 2009: 54-58.

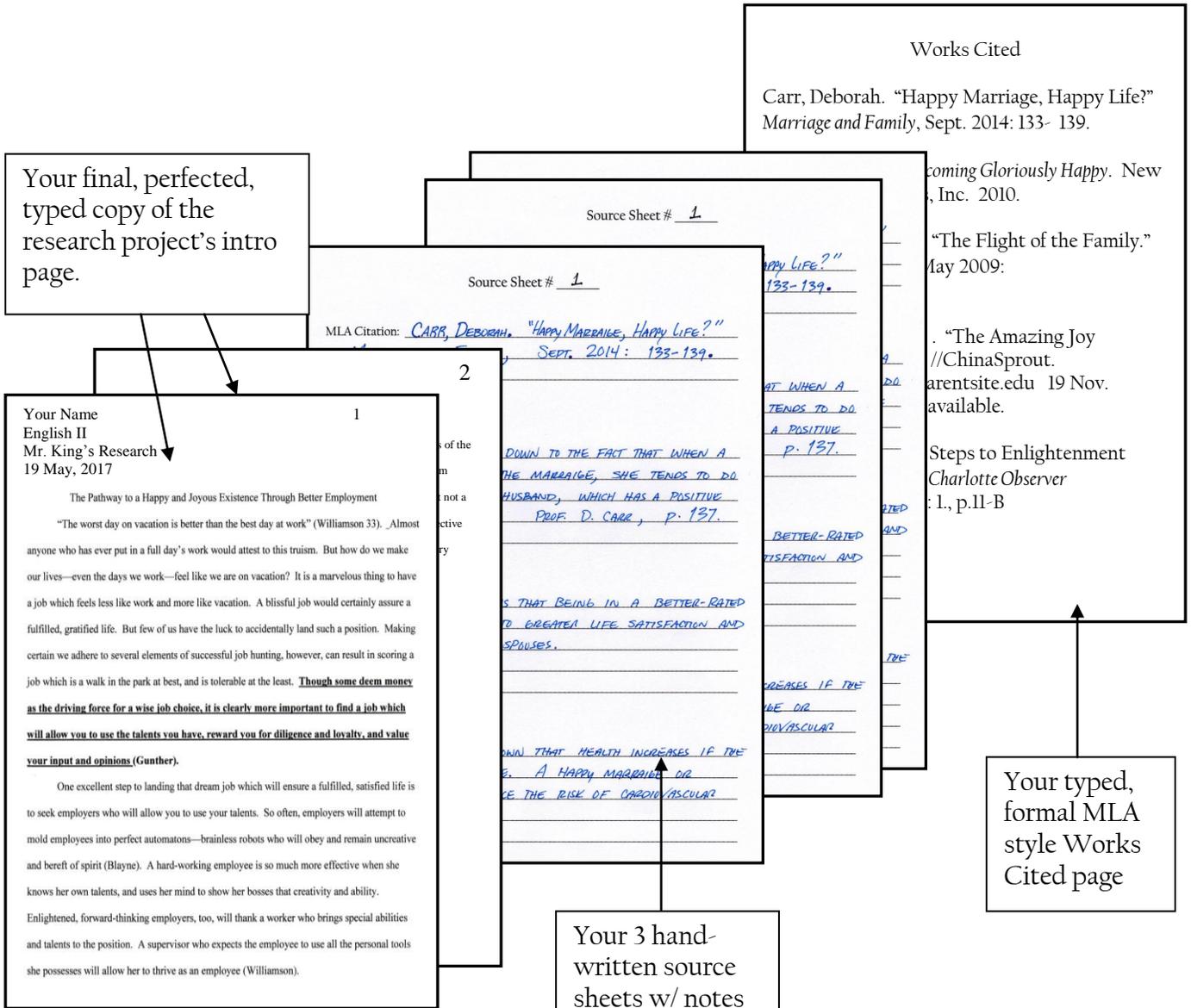
Yule, Carl Wallace. "The Amazing Joy Journey." <http://ChinaSprout.heartsofchina/parentsit.edu> 19 Nov. 2000: no pages available.

Zither, Sarah. "The Steps to Enlightenment and Peace." *The Charlotte Observer* 21 Nov. 2012, ed: 1, p.11-B.



- * Notice that this is merely an alphabetical representation of my source pages' citations, and that it is alphabetized by the first word in each citation.
- * Also notice that the first line in each citation (if the citation has more than one line) is typed far left, while subsequent lines are indented.
- * Notice also that none of the citations are numbered.
- * Notice also that, unlike my introductory paragraphs, each citation is SINGLE-SPACED text, then separated from the others with a space.

What you need to hand in to me on or before Friday, May 19th, 2017:



Your final, perfected, typed copy of the research project's intro page.

Works Cited
Carr, Deborah. "Happy Marriage, Happy Life?" *Marriage and Family*, Sept. 2014: 133- 139.

Source Sheet # 1

Source Sheet # 2
MLA Citation: Carr, Deborah. "Happy Marriage, Happy Life?" *Marriage and Family*, Sept. 2014: 133-139.

Your Name
English II
Mr. King's Research
19 May, 2017

The Pathway to a Happy and Joyous Existence Through Better Employment

"The worst day on vacation is better than the best day at work" (Williamson 33). Almost anyone who has ever put in a full day's work would attest to this truism. But how do we make our lives—even the days we work—feel like we are on vacation? It is a marvelous thing to have a job which feels less like work and more like vacation. A blissful job would certainly assure a fulfilled, gratified life. But few of us have the luck to accidentally land such a position. Making certain we adhere to several elements of successful job hunting, however, can result in scoring a job which is a walk in the park at best, and is tolerable at the least. Though some deem money as the driving force for a wise job choice, it is clearly more important to find a job which will allow you to use the talents you have, reward you for diligence and loyalty, and value your input and opinions (Gunter).

One excellent step to landing that dream job which will ensure a fulfilled, satisfied life is to seek employers who will allow you to use your talents. So often, employers will attempt to mold employees into perfect automatons—brainless robots who will obey and remain uncreative and bereft of spirit (Blayne). A hard-working employee is so much more effective when she knows her own talents, and uses her mind to show her bosses that creativity and ability. Enlightened, forward-thinking employers, too, will thank a worker who brings special abilities and talents to the position. A supervisor who expects the employee to use all the personal tools she possesses will allow her to thrive as an employee (Williamson).

Your 3 hand-written source sheets w/ notes

Your typed, formal MLA style Works Cited page

The above sections should be arranged together in this order. Make certain you give credit to writers any time you get any information from a source other than your own brain. If you do not give credit, you are plagiarizing, and plagiarism is illegal. Understand the serious nature of using someone else's ideas and claiming them for your own: You will fail this assignment if you plagiarize.