

## Guide to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Short Monthly Research Paper

### CONTENTS:

- Grading rubric
- Sample research information "scorecards"
- Sample research paper in correct format
- MLA Format basics

### **From the Common Core State Standards College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing**

#### *Research to Build and Present Knowledge*

- 7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.*
- 8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.*
- 9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.*



# Research Project

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Information Seeking/Selecting and Evaluating</b>—Student gathered information from at least <b>THREE</b> different quality sources. Source evaluation scorecard is included for <b>each</b> source.</li> <li>• <b>The Essay</b>—Student carefully analyzed the information collected and drew appropriate conclusions supported by evidence. Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details. <b>Approach is more analytical than descriptive</b> (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates information).</li> <li>• <b>Documentation</b>—Student documented all sources in MLA format in footnote or bibliography.</li> <li>• <b>Product</b>— Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization. The paper is well-written, <b>typed</b> and well-presented.</li> </ul>	100
		94
4	<p>The research paper meets all of the criteria for level five EXCEPT that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student presents the information collected without really analyzing it. Though the essay may present many relevant facts, examples, and details, the writer really just re-packages the information in his/her own words. <b>Approach is more descriptive than analytical.</b></li> <li>• There may be problems with the quality of presentation. Examples: not typed, many errors in English conventions or many typos, etc.</li> </ul>	85
		78
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The source evaluation scorecards are included for some, but not all sources. Sources may be of questionable value or there may not be enough sources.</li> <li>• Though the essay may present many relevant facts, examples, and details, the writer really just re-packages the information in his/her own words.</li> <li>• Though documentation is present, there may be problems with format.</li> <li>• There may be problems with the quality of presentation. Examples: not typed, many errors in English conventions or many typos, disorganized style, etc.</li> </ul>	71
		65
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The source evaluation scorecards are not included</li> <li>• Sources may be of questionable value or there may not be enough sources, or sources not cited.</li> <li>• The essay presents minimal relevant facts, examples, and details. The writer really just re-packages the information in his/her own words.</li> <li>• There may be problems with the quality of presentation. Examples: not typed, many errors in English conventions or many typos, disorganized style, etc.</li> </ul>	58
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The writer may have plagiarized the whole thing.</li> <li>• The writer looked up information somewhere and repackaged it, perhaps not even in his/her own words.</li> <li>• The amount of information present is grossly inadequate.</li> <li>• There may be problems with the quality of presentation. Examples: not typed, many errors in English conventions or many typos, disorganized style, etc.</li> </ul>	0

Source: World History - Glencoe - 2007

Credible—Can you trust this source?

+0 up to 3 points: What is your "gut feeling" about the believability of this source.  
 +3—Is the creator's name listed?  
 +5—Is the creator's background, education, training, and/or experience listed?  
 +3—The organization that published the source is listed.  
 +2—I can tell it's a non-profit organization  
 +2—I can tell it's a government organization  
 +1—It's a private company or individual publisher

3  
3  
5  
3  
1  
2

Accurate—Is the source providing true information to the best of your knowledge?

+2 if you do not find anything in the source that goes against something you know for sure

How old is the source?  
 +5 if it's no more than 3 years old  
 +2 if it's between 3 and 8 years old  
 +1 if it's older than 8 years old  
 +0 if you cannot tell when it was created.

5  
3

+3 if the purpose of the source is just to tell you information

+2 if the purpose of the source is also to convince you of something  
 +0 if the source is very one-sided

Quality

+5—The source tells where the creator got his/her information

+3—There are no evident grammar, spelling, or other mechanical errors

+3—The source is well-designed; there is little or no advertising or commercial interests;

5  
3  
3

Golden Age of Athens  
 Pericles in charge - general  
 • determined to rebuild Athens after destruction in Persian war  
 • temples, etc

Athenian Empire  
 • Athens dominates  
 • Delian League  
 defensive alliance  
 Athens uses its \$ to rebuild

x x x

Alexander the Great  
 Conquers all known world  
 Punish Persia  
 Unite Europe and Asia  
 Empire divided on his death  
 Married Persian  
 Imitated Persian life

(Continued ...)

How good is this source?

Calculate a score for this resource as a way to help you judge how strong the source is. A minimum score of around 27 on this scale would indicate a reasonably credible, accurate, and quality source.

Score:

36

(Glencoe 2001)

## Rise of Rome

Romulus 753 BCE

Etruscans

534 BCE Tarquin the Proud

509 BCE Romans overthrew

this cruel leader

Gov = republic now



Source: World History - Glencoe 2008

Credible—Can you trust this source?

+0 up to 3 points: What is your "gut feeling" about the believability of this source. **3**  
 +3—Is the creator's name listed? **3**  
 +5—Is the creator's background, education, training, and/or experience listed? **5**  
 +3—The organization that published the source is listed. **3**

+2—I can tell it's a non-profit organization  
 +2—I can tell it's a government organization  
 +1—It's a private company or individual publisher **1**

Accurate—Is the source providing true information to the best of your knowledge?

+2 if you do not find anything in the source that goes against something you know for sure **2**  
 How old is the source?  
 +5 if it's no more than 3 years old **5**  
 +2 if it's between 3 and 8 years old  
 +1 if it's older than 8 years old  
 +0 if you cannot tell when it was created.

+3 if the purpose of the source is just to tell you information **3**  
 +2 if the purpose of the source is also to convince you of something  
 +0 if the source is very one-sided

Quality  
 +5—The source tells where the creator got his/her information **5**  
 +3—There are no evident grammar, spelling, or other mechanical errors **3**  
 +3—The source is well-designed; there is little or no advertising or commercial interests; **3**

Athenian Empire

478 BCE Delian League  
defensive alliance  
against Persians

Pericles

dominant figure  
461 - 429 BCE

Democracy!

No leader like pattern

x x x

Alexander

Age 20 King Macedonia  
Dad dies - Takes over  
glory, empire  
conquers whole "world" by 326 BCE  
Imitate Greek culture  
Quote p. 136 "Iliad" "under pillow"

x x x

Roman Republic

509 BCE

overthrow Etruscan King  
establish republic  
no leader like pattern

How good is this source?

Calculate a score for this resource as a way to help you judge how strong the source is. A minimum score of around 27 on this scale would indicate a reasonably credible, accurate, and quality source.

Score:

36

# Research Information

Source: Web - Roman religion

Roman religion - animism

- no temples / statues
- gods added later with contact with Greeks

**Credible**—Can you trust this source?

- +0 up to 3 points: What is your "gut feeling" about the believability of this source. 3
- +3—Is the creator's name listed? 3
- +5—Is the creator's background, education, training, and/or experience listed? 0
- +3—The organization that published the source is listed. 0
- +2—I can tell it's a non-profit organization 0
- +2—I can tell it's a government organization 0
- +1—It's a private company or individual publisher 1

**Accurate**—Is the source providing true information to the best of your knowledge?

- +2 if you do not find anything in the source that goes against something you know for sure 2
- How old is the source? 5
- +5 if it's no more than 3 years old
- +2 if it's between 3 and 8 years old
- +1 if it's older than 8 years old
- +0 if you cannot tell when it was created.
- +3 if the purpose of the source is just to tell you information 3
- +2 if the purpose of the source is also to convince you of something
- +0 if the source is very one-sided

**Quality**

- +5—The source tells where the creator got his/her information 5
- +3—There are no evident grammar, spelling, or other mechanical errors ~~2~~
- +3—The source is well-designed; there is little or no advertising or commercial interests; 3

**How good is this source?**

Calculate a score for this resource as a way to help you judge how strong the source is. A minimum score of around 27 on this scale would indicate a reasonably credible, accurate, and quality source.

Score:

27

# Research Information

Source: Web - Mackay - List of Consuls

First 2 consuls were  
 L. Junius Brutus  
 L. Tarquinius Collatinus

No leader like pattern says

**Credible**—Can you trust this source?

- +0 up to 3 points: What is your "gut feeling" about the believability of this source. 3
- +3—Is the creator's name listed? 3
- +5—Is the creator's background, education, training, and/or experience listed? 5
- +3—The organization that published the source is listed. 3
- +2—I can tell it's a non-profit organization 2
- +2—I can tell it's a government organization
- +1—It's a private company or individual publisher

**Accurate**—Is the source providing true information to the best of your knowledge?

- +2 if you do not find anything in the source that goes against something you know for sure 2
- How old is the source?
  - +5 if it's no more than 3 years old
  - +2 if it's between 3 and 8 years old
  - +1 if it's older than 8 years old 1
  - +0 if you cannot tell when it was created.
- +3 if the purpose of the source is just to tell you information 3
- +2 if the purpose of the source is also to convince you of something
- +0 if the source is very one-sided

**Quality**

- +5—The source tells where the creator got his/her information 0
- +3—There are no evident grammar, spelling, or other mechanical errors 02
- +3—The source is well-designed; there is little or no advertising or commercial interests; 2

**How good is this source?**

Calculate a score for this resource as a way to help you judge how strong the source is. A minimum score of around 27 on this scale would indicate a reasonably credible, accurate, and quality source.

Score:

26



Source: YouTube - Alexander the Great (History Channel)

Mothers claimed consort of divine being Zeus

Alexander takes over from dad Philip  
Conquest

...

In Egypt - Oracle - "am I son of god?" yup.

**Credible**—Can you trust this source?

- +0 up to 3 points: What is your "gut feeling" about the believability of this source. **3**
- +3—Is the creator's name listed? **1**
- +5—Is the creator's background, education, training, and/or experience listed? **0**
- +3—The organization that published the source is listed. **3**
- +2—I can tell it's a non-profit organization
- +2—I can tell it's a government organization
- +1—It's a private company or individual publisher **1**

**Accurate**—Is the source providing true information to the best of your knowledge?

- +2 if you do not find anything in the source that goes against something you know for sure **2**
- How old is the source? **5**
- +5 if it's no more than 3 years old
- +2 if it's between 3 and 8 years old
- +1 if it's older than 8 years old
- +0 if you cannot tell when it was created.
- +3 if the purpose of the source is just to tell you information **3**
- +2 if the purpose of the source is also to convince you of something
- +0 if the source is very one-sided

**Quality**

- +5—The source tells where the creator got his/her information **0**
- +3—There are no evident grammar, spelling, or other mechanical errors **3**
- +3—The source is well-designed; there is little or no advertising or commercial interests; **3**

### How good is this source?

Calculate a score for this resource as a way to help you judge how strong the source is. A minimum score of around 27 on this scale would indicate a reasonably credible, accurate, and quality source.

Score:

24

Regents Global History and Geography

Historians have noted for centuries that certain things happen in history over and over again. One such pattern of civilization is that seen in the actions of great leaders at the founding of an empire. There is a Great Leader who founds an empire. He borrows from the past and uses religion to support his right to rule. This pattern is not strongly evident in the civilizations of Classical Greece and the Roman Republic, but it is strongly evident in the case of the Hellenistic Kingdoms.

In the case of Classical Greece, it is difficult to identify a single leader who founds an empire because Greece was never united into an Empire in the same way that Babylonia or Egypt was. The mountains "isolated Greeks from one another, causing different Greek communities to develop their own ways of life" (Spielvogel). A loose-fit to the pattern of a great leader who founds an empire could be seen in the case of Pericles, who led the Athenian Empire from 461 to 429 BCE. Athens was a democracy led by Pericles. By controlling the Delian League, a defensive alliance, Athens controlled much of the Aegean. Pericles borrows from the past to support his power in that he built on the democracy established by Cleisthenes and the laws established by Solon a century before. There was only weak connection between religion and democracy in Sparta. Democracy developed as a result of military and naval events. Pericles did not support his power with Greek religion. In short, Classical Greece does not follow the pattern of history of a great leader and its founding.

In the case of the Hellenistic kingdoms, it's easy to identify a leader, Alexander the Great, who conquered everything in his known world by 326 BCE. Alexander follows

the pattern of using religion and tradition to support his power. His mother, and later an oracle in Egypt, supported his claim to be the son of Zeus. Once he conquered Persia, he made himself Persian emperor. Persian emperors are worshipped as divine. Alexander borrowed from the past to support his authority. For example, he “kept a copy of the Iliad [...] under his pillow” and he tried to imitate the Greek hero Achilles (Spielvogel). He was Macedonian, but he was culturally very Greek.

Like Classical Greece, the Roman Republic does not start in the way empires usually start in history. The Roman Republic begins probably in 509 BCE when the Romans expel the Etruscan king Tarquin the Proud. Roman history does not give us the name of a single leader who takes over and forms an empire. We know the names of the first two consuls, L. Iunius Brutus and L. Tarquinius Collatinus. Not only is there no great leader to start Rome, but those leaders that were there seem to avoid the pattern of even pretending to borrow from the past to support their right to power. As for religion and the state, the Roman religion was little more than an advanced sort of animism. “The early Romans believed in a simple animism - that there were spirits/powers, or numina, which surrounded all men. There were no temple/statues” (Sumair and Tsang). It would be centuries before the Roman religion would be used to support the government’s right to rule. By then, the emperor would be worshipped as a god.

Classical Greece and the Roman Republic do not follow the patterns of the rise of an empire. There is no single great leader who imposes his will through military force, who defends his right to rule by claiming to be going along with tradition, and who uses religion to support his right to rule. Alexander the Great did. When Alexander died, his generals divided up his empire into what we know of as the Hellenistic Kingdoms and

they followed Alexander closely as a model. What is interesting to note about these two exceptions is that, in both cases, change comes about because of the people and the government in both cases is strongly democratic. Even though there were limits on who could vote and hold office, there was still greater participation than in monarchy. It seems clear that nations that form from popular uprisings have a different character than those that begin with a king. It would be worth investigating to see whether democratic civilizations have their own historical patterns.

## Works Cited

Farah, Mounir A. and Andrea Berens Karls. World History: The Human Experience. Columbus, OH: Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 2001.

Mackay, Christopher S. Consuls of the Roman Republic. 1998. 11 October 2011 <<http://www.ualberta.ca/~csmackay/Consuls.List.html>>.

Spielvogel, Jackson J. World History. Columbus, OH: Glencoe McGraw-Hill, 2008.

Sumair, Mirza and Jason Tsang. Roman Religion. 2011. 11 October 2011 <<http://www.classicsunveiled.com/romel/html/religion.html>>.

The History Channel. History channel - The true story of Alexander the Great (part I). 2009. 11 October 2011 <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lSeUustPic>>.

**Citing your source using MLA (“Modern language Association”) format:**

## **BOOKS**

**Format:**

Author. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year.

## **ENCYCLOPEDIAS and REFERENCE BOOKS**

**Format:**

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