**Social Studies Research Paper**

Cover: 3-prong folder with the following information on the front: Title of project, your name, school name, grade, social studies teacher’s name

*You will need to include the following pages in your paper. Bold type indicates what should be in the heading at the top of these pages:*

Page 1: Title page (same information as the cover)

Page 2: **Statement of the Problem** (states why the topic is important to study)

Pages 3-4/5/6 (minimum 2, maximum 4 pages): **Research Findings** (summary of the research presented in a logical, convincing manner) Begin with an introduction that summarizes the main points to be covered. Avoid personal pronouns when possible. Make sure that all of the sources you used are mentioned in the paper and cited in the bibliography. AVOID PLAGARISM AT ALL COSTS! Papers not written in your own words (except cited excerpts) will BE GIVEN A GRADE OF ZERO. Plagiarism is theft of intellectual property and is not acceptable. Your research paper should logically prove your conclusions. All writing should be 12 pt. Times New Roman or Arial font, black ink, 1 inch margins. There should be no pictures in the paper.

Page 5/6/7: **Conclusion** Summary paragraph (about one-half page) that outlines the main points of your research findings

Page 6/7/8: **Bibliography** An MLA style list of all sources. These websites explain (or actually convert into) MLA style: [http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/mla/alphabetical.shtml, http](http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/mla/alphabetical.shtml,%20%20http):// citationmachine.net

Page 7/8/9: Acknowledgements (Thank those who helped you.)

***Rubric for Social Studies Research Paper:***

*Statement of the Problem 10 points*

*Development of the Topic 20 points*

*Interpretation of the Topic 10 points*

*Evidence of Critical Thinking (evaluation and interpretation of data): 20 points*

*Logical Conclusion that Answers the Question Being Explored: 15 points*

*Correct Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation 15 points*

*Correct MLA Bibliographic Style (min. 5 sources) 10 points*

For more information go to: <http://www.gcss.net/ssfairguide.pdf>

*Students who wish to complete the entire project (optional) should use the guidelines at the GCSS websites.*