Your final essay assignment this year is a research paper on a topic of your own choosing. You may research and write about any topic that interests you (with Ms. Wendt’s approval), as long as it focuses on some aspect of World History.

Because of the size of the project and the length of time involved, we will be breaking the process down into a series of milestones. In order to help you pace yourself and spare you the inevitable pain that procrastination would surely produce, the following schedule of deadlines has been established:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Milestone</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Step #1</td>
<td>Proposal of three topics. Ms. Wendt will approve or deny these topics.</td>
<td>Friday, April 13 (by email)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step #2</td>
<td>Final Topic Selection: a brief summary of your topic and at least one research question</td>
<td>Thursday, May 3</td>
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<td>Step #3</td>
<td>Preliminary thesis statement; list of at least 4 sources, notes: at least 2 pages (notebook or Google doc) or 10 notecards (Noodle tools)</td>
<td>Friday, May 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step #4</td>
<td>Rough Outline (at least 1 page) w/ prelim. thesis statement. At least 8 sources, at least 1 primary source. Notes.</td>
<td>Friday, May 18</td>
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<td>Step #5</td>
<td>10 sources cited, at least 2 primary; NOTES: 5 pages (Google doc or notebook) or 20 notecards (Noodle tools),</td>
<td>Friday, May 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step #6</td>
<td>Introduction due; Optional rough draft for Ms. Wendt to read and make comments</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 29</td>
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<td>Step #7</td>
<td>Final Draft due (be sure to go over checklist before submission) including Works Cited page, MLA format</td>
<td>Monday, June 4</td>
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Project Milestones & The Process:

Library days: Monday 4/23, Monday 4/30, Tuesday 5/1, Monday 5/7, Monday 5/14, Monday 5/21, Friday 6/1
Ms. Wendt’s Research Paper Requirements:
- Everything, with the exception of notes, must be typed

- Final paper: 3-4 pages in length (double-spaced), with a clear thesis and argument. Must include intro and conclusion and body paragraphs. MLA format.

- Title page that includes a meaningful, relevant title in large print. Title page should include your full name, due date, class name, and class period.

- At least 10 total sources used:
  ● At least 5 total sources used and cited IN the paper
  ● At least 2 primary sources (both must be used and cited in the paper)
  ● At least 1 book
  ● No more than 1 encyclopedia reference
  ● Other possible sources (journal articles, websites, etc.)
  ● Proper citation format for all sources.
  ● Parenthetical citations in the main body of the text

In-Class Work:
To avoid overwhelming you with material at this early stage, I’ll be introducing the process and requirements in pieces, and we’ll spend time in class discussing:
  - How do I use sources effectively?
  - How do learn more about my topic?
  - How do I take notes, and keep track of them?
  - How do I write an outline?
  - How do I do parenthetical citations and a works cited page?

Other Notes/Helpful Hints:
  - Stick to your thesis!!! Use it as the guiding force throughout your paper.
  - Read, read, read!!! Take the time to actually read through the sources you compile and become a mini-expert; you’ll do better.
  - Use primary sources whenever possible. Historians use them all the time, and history teachers like when you use them – show that you know how and when to incorporate quotes/paraphrases from primary sources.
  - If you bring up opposing arguments, make sure to refute them in your paper.
  - A research paper is not a report; your job is to analyze history, not just research it and describe it.
  - Do not plagiarize. Even accidental plagiarism can earn you a zero on this huge paper.