Hello Writing Skills students:

I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe during the COVID-19 quarantine period. At this point, we have approximately three weeks until school is officially done. So if you are continuing to work on assignments for extra credit, now is the time to be finishing them and emailing them to me.

As a reminder from last week, I am going to freeze your grade at the Spring Break mark, since that is the last time we met as a class. Any and all work that you turn into me will be marked as an extra credit grade. This extra credit will be added to your grade that is on freeze at the end of the semester to count as your final grade. Therefore, you can only improve your grade during this online schooling time, not hurt your grade. I would love to see you all continue with the assignments I am putting on the website each week, whether you need to improve your grade or not. Please make the effort so that you are continuing to learn the material we have been covering this semester.

I have decided to give this class an extra week in turn in your Research Papers. Therefore, all work for this project is now due 5/13 and 5/14. I cannot except any work after these dates. Please make sure you turn in all work on or before those dates. This will give me time to get final grades into Infinite Campus. Remember, as middle school and high school students, your grades at LEAP count toward your GPA for the year. I will check in with you weekly to see how your progress is going. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the assignment, you can email me at linda.ragazzo@thompsonschools.org.

1. At this point in the process, you should be deep into writing your rough draft. Please double and triple check that your source note cards and research note cards are filled out correctly, and efficiently. I am reminding you again (as I will each week) of what your final draft of your research paper should look like.

   1. Title page
   2. Outline page (with a thesis statement at the top of your outline)
   3. Draft
      a. Introduction - 1 paragraph with 7-8 sentences. Have a quote, a statistic or a question as a hook for your reader. (Last sentence must be your thesis statement)
      b. Each subtopic - (3-5 subtopics) discussed in 2-3 paragraphs with 7-8 sentences.
      c. Conclusion - (summation of your paper) 1 paragraph with 7-8 sentences. Have 1-2 good
pieces of information, like statistics or a quote, to summarize.

4. Bibliography (source page)
The required 8-10 pages does not include the Title page, Outline page, or Bibliography. So you must have 8-10 pages of your Draft. When you are in the writing process, remember that you must source within your paper any direct quotes, sections of information that you do not paraphrase, and images of graphs, maps, pictures, etc. Here is an example of how to source within your paper:

**Direct Quote:** “Unless and until our society recognizes cyberbullying for what it is, the suffering of thousands of silent victims will continue.” (Anna Maria Chavez, brainyquote.com)

**Long Section of Information not Paraphrased:** Bullies are made, not born, and it happens at an early age, if the normal aggression of 2-year-olds isn't handled with consistency. And bullying remains a very durable behavioral style, largely because bullies get what they want—at least at first. (psychologytoday.com) ***please paraphrase the majority of your paper. Only source non paraphrased sections when completely necessary.

**Images:** Place the source in parenthesis underneath your image.

2. I previously sent you a link on how to write a Bibliography page. I am keeping that link below for your reference. I think I handed out a packet on bibliographies. If you have this, you can use it for your guide. This link gives examples on how to write out each source. Your information for this page should come from your source cards. So each source you used should be represented on your Bibliography page. Do not number your sources on the page. Double space between each source and its information. This will be the last page of your research paper final draft.

[https://examples.yourdictionary.com/bibliography-examples.html](https://examples.yourdictionary.com/bibliography-examples.html)

3. Remember you must have one source card for each source that you use. Also remember that you must number that source card. So if you have seven sources, then you should have seven source cards numbered 1-7. Also, your research cards should have your main topic and subtopic written at the top of the card, along with the number corresponding to the source card you are using for that piece of research. Next, remember NOT to write out full sentences on your research cards (write in note form) unless it is a quote or a paragraph directly taken from the source.

4. You should be finished with your outline for your paper. Your final draft of your paper should follow each step of your outline. I am attaching a link to an example page of what your outline should look like in case you don't have the example worksheet I handed out before break. This will be a reference for you. **Remember that your thesis statement needs to be stated on your outline above the Introduction.** Even if this link I sent to you doesn't show this, I want it there.
5. I have attached a link on how to write a thesis statement. If you remember, we learned how to write a thesis statement last semester when we were writing our Argument Essays. If you still have the handouts from that lesson, you may use those as a reference as well. Please look at both of the links below. One is a video and one is a handout page. Both will give you good information on writing a good thesis statement. **Please send me your thesis statement in an email or google doc so I can review it with you. Remember a thesis statement is only 1 sentence long.**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptx5TvNxLw

https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/thesis-statements/

6. **ASSIGNMENT:**
   This week I want you to finish writing your rough draft. After you finish with the rough draft, please email it to me so that I can read over it and give you suggestions/corrections. Remember to also have someone at home proofread your rough draft and final draft.

I will check in with you next week to see how your rough draft is going. Thank you all for being patient with this new type of learning right now. I have confidence that you will all do very well.