**Mini Research Paper Assignment**

As you may know, as you go through high school, you will be required to write research papers. Therefore, this project will help acclimate you to the research process, including moving from a research paper topic to a thesis statement, finding research materials, incorporating research materials into a research paper and a works cited page.

We have read the article *Robo Legs* and our first research project will be from this reading. We have already generated a list of questions that we can research. Students will write a 400-750 word mini-research paper on one of the topics generated by the questions.

The first step in writing a research paper is to come up with a topic. In this case, the topic has been provided: The technology in prosthetics legs. The next step is to do some preliminary research on that topic. Once this is done, the topic can be further narrowed by writing a proposal. Choose one of the questions the class generated. Below are some research proposals that could be turned into the start of a good research paper on the given topic.

1. Whether or not C-legs could be made less expensively so that more people could use them? (how do people pay?)
2. Whether or not people with C-legs have an advantage over other athletes using their natural abilities?
3. Whether or not his personal history was an inspiration for Hanson to create prosthetics?
4. Whether or not there are alternative ways to power the C-legs? (batteries, solar power, etc.)
5. Whether or not the design of prosthetics makes a difference for the users (types of prosthetics, differences, similarities, swimming, running, walking, etc.)
6. Whether future advances in technology help create one leg that can run, swim, and walk?

Once a good proposal is selected, more specific research can be conducted on the narrower focus of a particular topic. Once that research is concluded, the research proposal is turned into a thesis statement, which attempts to answer the question proposal through research. The thesis statement organizes the arguments contained in the paper itself, and the writer uses the research found to support the assertion that his thesis makes. Any time **quotations** or **paraphrases** of the work are used in a research paper, those **sources** must be cited using **parenthetical references**. On a separate sheet of paper at the end of the essay, the student must attach a list of all of the sources either quoted or paraphrased in the essay. This list is called a **Works Cited** page.

The paper must be between 400-750 words in length. It must contain at least three research sources. The paper must include at least three quotations from the sources listed in the works cited page, and must contain a properly formatted works cited page at the end of the essay using listing each of the sources used in the paper in proper MLA format.

**None of the sources can be an internet source from Wikipedia or any internet source with a dot com designation.**

Your Paper Should:

* be typed in 12 point font, using Times New Roman, or Arial font.
* be double-spaced.
* Have an introductory paragraph that: arouses interest, suggests, what the paper is about and includes the thesis statement
* Be interesting to read
* Have the main idea of each paragraph clearly stated in a topic sentence
* Have smooth transition words that link sentences to each other and paragraphs to what precedes and follows.
* Have a concluding paragraph that summarizes the main idea, states what was learned or discovered
* A works cited page that uses MLA format for works
* Proper mechanics, punctuation, spelling, grammar, and capitalization

You should be able to answer the following questions:

When is the paper due?

What is the purpose of the paper?

How long should the paper be?

How many sources are required?

Is a works cited page (bibliography) required?

Does my paper have to be typed?

Must I hand in a first draft?

May the paper be longer than the stated length?

Do I have to use quotes in my paper?

Do I have to include parenthetical citations?