

**What is the Power of Research? Below are ideas to help you find a topic.**

### How much can **one person** change the world?

How much influence can one person have on social, economic, or political events? You might explore this question by writing a **biographical research paper** that investigates the role of an individual in a war, a protest movement, or a medical breakthrough. If you prefer, you could write a **historical research paper** that traces the effects of a particular event or discovery.



**Example:** U.S. President Ronald Reagan. How did he use humor to combat the Cold War?

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### Are there **patterns** in history?

When you read world history and literature, do you notice any situations or events that seem to recur over time? Ethnic and regional conflicts, reactions to disasters, political change, the power of music and art, the impulse to travel, and the importance of family seem universal. You might choose a pattern that interests you and make it the focus of a **multidisciplinary research paper** that explores finds from history and trends in literature.

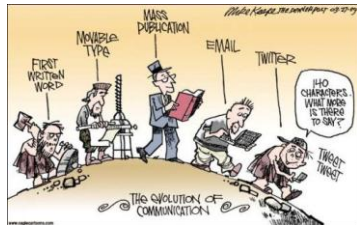


**Example:** Putin and Hitler. Are there similarities? How are wars started? Why are wars started?

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## How does **science** control our lives?

Science and technology affect nearly every part of our lives. Does your breakfast cereal contain genetically modified grains? Will wearing a certain type of shoe make you a better athlete? Can eating specific combinations of foods make you smarter? Do you learn and retain knowledge better reading on a screen or on printed paper? Does make-up really make a woman more attractive? In a **scientific research paper**, you collect data yourself, review and evaluation your findings and the findings of others, present original conclusions.



**Example:** Did this woman need to have make-up and her photograph altered to be considered beautiful?

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## When does **literature** mirror real life?

Novels, stories, plays, and poems can help you understand major and minor conflicts. Can they also provide guidance? One way to explore a work of literature is to write a **literary research paper** that shows how the work mirrors its own times or issues a warning about people and events. For example, you could focus on the novels and stories of independence, slavery, war, survival stories, or the American Dream.



**Example:** What do survivors at sea have in common with each other? (*Solo Sailor in Peril, Survive the Savage Sea, Captain Phillips*)

Explore the characteristics of Twentieth-Century American Drama which focuses frequently on social issues and the lives of ordinary people, provides in-depth exploration of the inner lives of characters, and it shifts from more realistic to more experimental productions by the end of the century. (*Raisin in the Sun, Death of a Salesman, Waiting for Godot*)

