**Contemporary Africa Research Paper:**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this assignment is to provide an in-depth look at how Africa was transformed by the arrival of the Europeans, and what some of the effects of Western Colonization were. Students will provide a short introduction to their country of choice, provide information for two (2) contemporary issues in their country and make at least three (3) connections between their chosen country and the story Achebe tells of the Ibo people of Nigeria in *Things Fall Apart*. This paper will be around 4 pages in length and will follow the provided APA format.

**Requirements:**

This research paper will include all of the following requirements:

1. Typed Final Copy (1) that is **PRINTED** and ready to be handed in at the beginning of the period onMARCH 10, 2015.
2. Typed Final Copy **EMAILED** to[**lombardoenglish@hotmail.com**](mailto:lombardoenglish@hotmail.com) by 11:59pm onMARCH 10, 2015**.**
3. All typed papers will be double-spaced and will use size 12, Time New Roman font.
4. Parenthetical Citations (in-text) and References section will follow APA FORMAT
5. Length: Approximately 4 pages

Sources—Source requirements are as follows:

1. At Least 2 Books or E-Books
2. At Least 2 Electronic Sources, including 1 full or excerpted **Scholarly Journal**
3. NO SEARCH ENGINES as resources (yahoo, google, ask.com, etc.)
4. NO WIKIPEDIA

**Grading:**

Students will be required to self-monitor their progress on assignments. Students will have checkpoints in their research that they are responsible for meeting. On each checkpoint day, student work will be reviewed. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day the assignment is late, unless other arrangements have been made between the student and the teacher. Assignments 5 or more days late will receive a 50%.

**Materials:**

1. Note Cards 2. Lined Paper 3. Computer Access 4. Assignment Sheets 5. Rubric

**TIMELINE:**

***These dates are approximate and will be adjusted as needed.***

**Week 1: January 29th- February 3rd**

What’s Going On?

The assignment will be introduced and discussed. Questions will be taken at this time. Students will have some library time to choose a country and begin to investigate it.

CHECKPOINT:

* Student will select their country and create at least 10 note cards by February 3rd.
* Students will receive instruction on creating note cards
* Student will have assignment signed by Mrs. Lombardo, Mrs. Wilkes or Mrs. Schaefer (if applicable).

**Week 2: February 4th – February 10th**

What’s Going On?

Student will go to the library and Mrs. Wilkes will review how to use the school’s library database to locate print sources and how to locate/ evaluate information on the internet. Students will be given class time to research their paper topics, create note cards, get note cards approved and begin an outline.

CHECKPOINT:

* Student will receive training on database searches
* Student will have at least 1 print/eBook source with 1 electronic source identified and reference created.
* Student will have at least 20 note cards completed by February 9th. Each student will need to speak with Mrs. Lombardo, Mrs. Wilkes or Mrs. Schaefer about their note cards by February 10th. Mrs. Lombardo, Mrs. Wilkes or Mrs. Schaefer and the student will need to sign off and date the TEACHER COPY OF STUDENT PROGRESS SHEET in order for students to gain credit.
* Students will begin a preliminary outline based on the format provided in class.

**Week 3: February 11th-February 24th**

What’s Going On?

During this week, each student will work on and hand in a **PRINTED/ WRITTEN (INKED)** copy of their final outline to be approved. Students will meet with Mrs. Lombardo, Mrs. Wilkes or Mrs. Schaefer to discuss their outlines. Outlines will need to be signed off on and dated, by the teacher and student, as complete on the TEACHER COPY OF STUDENT PROGRESS SHEET. Students will have class time to begin typing their rough drafts.

CHECKPOINT:

* Students will hand in their PRINTED/ WRITTEN (INKED) final outlines to be graded and approved based on the provided rubric. This is due February 24rd.
* Students will sit down with Mrs. Lombardo, Mrs. Wilkes or Mrs. Schaefer to discuss and sign off on their final outline by February 25th.
* Students will begin typing their rough drafts, based on the approved outline.

**Week 4: February 25th -March 5th**

What’s Going On?

During this week, students will be working on their rough drafts. Class time will be provided to students to type their rough drafts. Teachers will begin to look at rough drafts in order to provide feedback. Teachers WILL NOT FULLY PROOFREAD, FORMAT, and/or CORRECT student papers. ***Teachers WILL NOT fix every mistake***. Student and teacher will have time to sit together and talk about individual papers.

CHECKPOINT:

* Teachers will review rough drafts and make suggestions where needed. Again, **teachers WILL NOT correct everything that is incorrect**. Student is expected to proofread his or her own work before he or she hands in his or her final draft.
* Students will begin to proofread and type the final copy of their research paper.

**\*\*\*\*\*\* PRINTED Copy of Final Paper Due\*\*\*\*\*\***

**MARCH 10, 2015**

**\*\*\*\*\*\* EMAILED Copy of Final Paper Due by 11:59 pm on March 10, 2015\*\*\*\*\*\***

*\*\*\* There will be mini lessons to review citations, procedures and general formatting during weeks 2-4. \*\*\**

*\*\*\*Students will receive rubrics for each part of the assignment. It is the job of the STUDENT to ask questions, complete assignments and turn in rubrics and assignments on due dates. \*\*\**

*\*\*\*Please put First and Last Name, Period and TFA Final Paper in the subject line of email. \*\*\**

**Research Paper Assignment:**

In combination with our *Things Fall Apart* unit and your studies about Africa, you will be required to write an APA style research paper on one of the following African Countries. After you are assigned your country, you will need to complete research, on the following, in your paper:

**Countries: Ivory Coast, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Mali, Cameroon, Angola, Algeria, Chad, Lybia, Sudan, Kenya, South Africa, Zambia, Ethiopia or Morocco**

**Requirements:**

1. **Introduction—**Brief introduction to your country, geographical information and important facts.
2. **Choice of 2 (TWO) Contemporary Issues in YOUR COUNTRY—**

In an APA formatted paper, choose 3 of the following topics to write about. Your paper should reflect your research on these topics as well as your understanding of APA citations and formatting.

**Choices:**

1. **Political situations**. Africa has a rich history of political ups and downs, and addressing one of their contemporary political issues may be a smart way to go. Study up on some of the political happenings in YOUR COUNTRY. Address what they might mean for the future, and what they might reflect about the current social climate of your country.
2. **Cultural changes**. There are hundreds, if not thousands of different cultures within Africa, and every one of them has transferred into the current time. How do cultural norms and viewpoints affect YOUR COUNTRY’s peoples, actions and attitudes towards the outside world (as well as each other)? How have cultures changed in light of outside influences?
3. **Financial and business issues**. Many raw goods consumed worldwide come from African soil, and this offers up many areas of study for a research paper. How do certain industries affect the peoples of YOUR COUNTRY? What is the financial status of YOUR COUNTRY, and why?
4. **Religion**. A land diverse in culture, Africa is also a land diverse in religion. In fact, religious belief has fueled many political overturns, wars and other conflicts all over the African continent. Religion is a force of division and union in the African continent, so try examining its effect on social and political relations in YOUR COUNTRY.
5. **Race relations**. While many people may consider race relations to be more specific to South Africa, race relations, whether they regard Europeans, Africans, or peoples of Asian or Middle-Eastern decent, are taut and explosive. Explore race relations in YOUR COUNTRY. How do they impact the daily lives of the people in YOUR COUNTRY?
6. **Poverty and health**. Many areas of Africa have long struggled with poverty issues, as well as healthcare concerns. Examine the healthcare status of YOUR COUNTRY and discuss the reasons for current healthcare and poverty issues, its effect on the population, and any possible solutions.
7. **Connection to *Things Fall Apart***—Answer the following question that requires you to make comparisons between YOUR COUNTRY and the novel, *Things Fall Apart*. This should be in essay format and should incorporate examples from your reading and the research you are conducting.

**Question: Identify and explain three (3) similar situations, ideas and/ or “things” that have changed both Okonkwo’s homeland as well as YOUR COUNTRY. How have these conditions made “things—fall apart” in both nations?**

**\*\*\*Please remember that your paper is to be complete in APA style and that you can come to Mrs. Wilkes or Mrs. Lombardo with any questions that you have.\*\***