**Final Paper Checklist**

**Formatting/MLA conventions: 15 points**

\_\_\_Font, title, spacing (5)

\_\_\_MLA in-text citations (5)

\_\_\_Works Cited with at least 5 credible sources in

MLA format on separate page (5)

**Introduction, conclusion, and thesis: 20 points**

**\_\_\_**Attention grabbing intro that is interesting,

creative, not cliché (5)

\_\_\_Appropriate background material that transitions

from the intro to the thesis smoothly and provides necessary background information on the research paper topic (5)

\_\_\_Thesis statement that contains a clear opinion

or argument (not a question)of an appropriate scope for a 5-6 page paper (5)

\_\_\_Conclusion that summarizes the main argument then applies the topic to the readers by showing how to apply

the information learned. (5)

**Topic sentences and Organization: 15 points**

**\_\_\_**Each paragraph has a clear topic sentence that

contains an opinion or argument relating back to thesis (5)

\_\_\_Topic sentences provide clear transitions from

previous paragraphs where necessary (5)

\_\_\_Each paragraph stays on track of the topic

sentence,  proving it fully without wandering on tangents (5)

**Use of Sources: 20 points (quotes, paraphrases, summaries should be about 30% of paper combined)**

**\_\_\_**Sources that are credible, balanced, and contain appropriate depth of information (5)

\_\_\_Use of heart-rendering quotes and correct paraphrases

and summaries in every body paragraph(5)

\_\_\_Sources are introduced, integrated, and

explained in your words. Never “stack” quotes,

begin or end a paragraph with a quote, or let it stand without explanation and analysis. See Synthesizing Sources handout (5)

\_\_\_All outside sources are documented using in-text

references.(5)

**Persuasive Voice and Style (15 points)**

\_\_\_Reader hear YOUR voice and YOUR opinions

throughout, and sources are used to back YOUR arguments.(5)

\_\_\_You use clear, correct, persuasive language that

keeps the reader interested throughout. (5)

\_\_\_At some point you include opposing arguments,

then acknowledge them to show you are

informed on all sides of the issue. (5)

**Grammar and Mechanics (15 points)**

**\_\_\_**No first or second person (first person is only acceptable if the writer is talking about a personal experience with the subject)( NO I, me, you, your)(5)

\_\_\_No fragments, comma splices, run on sentences

(5)

  \_\_\_Proof read for missing words or awkward wording, capitalization and punctuation (5)

(5)