RESEARCH PAPER OPTION

It is my intent to keep the research paper/project option open to special interests that students might have. Therefore, I welcome your input and suggestions. What constitutes a “paper” or “project” can very greatly but here are some general guidelines.

Format
All research papers must be word processed and demonstrative of attention to writing/communications skills. By this I mean that they are expected to be:

• Grammatically correct
• Free of spelling/word usage errors
• Highly “readable”
• Well organized (typically broken into section)
• Follow the APA style for citations (be very careful of web references)

In terms of mechanics, I would suggest the papers be:

• Single-spaced
• Double-spaced between paragraphs
• Contain a minimum of 5 references, at least 3 of which are non-web
• No shorter than 7 pages, excluding title page, bibliography, appendices, etc.

Topics
The research paper must be on an acceptable topic, meaning one approved by me. Here are a couple of suggestions:

• How effective are wilderness camp programs?
• What role did bullying play in the rash of school shootings we have seen over the past decade?
• Look at the most recent statistics on juvenile detention. Why are minority youth so much more likely to end up in juvenile detention facilities?
• The most recent trends over the past 12 years in juvenile laws and procedures clearly point to a “get tough” toward juveniles. How has this been true in the states of Kentucky or Tennessee?
• Find a real juvenile case that has been adequately talked about in the press or media (locally or nationally). Explain the behavior using one of the theories covered in class.