Technically, this isn’t a fill-in-the-blank process outlined in this handout, but it is as close to one as you could get to completing the junior research project. Section 1 is where some of you may get a little confused, and while I said you can (and maybe should) start with Section 2, many of you will still be determined to start rolling with Section 1. So…here you go:

*When I mentioned research paper, several of you wondered “When are we getting our topic?” As mentioned previously, you are all writing about the same thing. Overall, that is. The topic/theme is the same for everyone. That doesn’t mean you don’t have any choice in what gets written, though. Think of it as a destination we’re all traveling to. Everybody is going to the same place, but you get to choose how you get there. Remember that this thing is a process. It does not have to be researched nor written in the order that it will eventually be arranged and turned in. Therefore, feel free to jump around and work on any of the below sections in any order you wish. Work in a sequence that feels comfortable and/or works for you. You can tie it all together in the correct sequence later on. (That’s the magic of typing on computers.) Compose in whatever word processing program you wish. However, please make sure that the printed final product you turn in is formatted to specifications. (Yes, if not, then your grade suffers.)*

*As already advised, start where you feel confident. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE do* ***NOT*** *turn this thing in with your sections tagged with the letters below. I included them so you can keep your order straight if you type the paper out of sequence, and so you can use them as a cross-off list, if desired. If you turn in a paper to me with these letters to the side of your paragraphs I will NOT grade it.*

1. All great papers start with a great title. You can eventually swap it out for one you come up with if you want, but for now, if you need one provided, choose one of the following and type it at the top of your paper:
*An Analysis of Success and Failure in Modern America*
Success in America: Why Some Reach It And Some Do Not
The Divide Between: Success and Failure in Modern America
Today’s America Dream and the Difficulties of Getting There
Degrees of Success and Failure in Modern America
2. Every research paper begins with a solid introduction. I’ll provide a few suggestions for approaching the introduction later on, but go ahead and introduce Section 1 by spending a paragraph or two discussing The American Dream—it’s historical/traditional meaning, how it has influenced our country, and what The American Dream looks like for people of today.
Remember, Section 1 is written in third person!
3. This is actually the easier part of Section 1. Your first discussion is what keeps many people from becoming as successful in life as they hoped to. As already told a few days ago, you are going to split this discussion into a look at external factors (things beyond our control) that get in the way of success, and a look at internal factors (things we are in control of and are responsible for) that keep people from reaching success. So,
-Discuss 3 things in current day America that create barriers to success. Which 3? You pick.
-Discuss 3 things that are common internal flaws/faults that people have that keep them from reaching the success they could have. Which 3? Eleventeen dozen to choose from. Again—you pick.
4. For whatever reason, picking out the negatives is always easier than identifying positives. But, this is where you do just that. It’s maybe the most difficult section of this whole paper. Discuss/analyze what it is about successful people that’s instrumental in their reaching that success. Identify 3 or 4 specific keys/factors that lead to reaching and maintaining success. You are analyzing what it is that is common among people who are successful in life. Remember, we are focusing on everyday successful people—NOT long-shot celebrities. We are focusing on success that can be plotted and predicted by everyday Americans. If you use LeBron James or Adam Levine or some other celebrity figure as a spotlight for this part of the paper, then you will be scoring very low.
5. You need to wrap up Section 1. This is where you compose a snazzy closing paragraph. More on this later. Take a stab if you’d like now, or just skip this part and come back to it later when the class discusses it together next week.
6. Section 2 is all about you. Remember, it is written in first person. Open this section with a solid paragraph that explores your own personal definition of what success is—to you. Define it, explain it, explore it. Identify what, specifically, you want to achieve and experience in life.
7. This is where you write a career profile. Many of you already have a solid draft for this. ☺ (Thanks, Mr. Tucker!) Decide on a career that you have a sincere interest in and realistically see yourself doing. (Remember—it must be specific and focused.) First identify the career, by title as well as with a description of what exactly someone in this field does. Include in this a mention of salary and requirements to be qualified to do this job. Also, do a little digging and find out what the current job market is for this career. How in-demand is it? Then, discuss why you have an interest in this career, why you think you’ll enjoy it, and why you think it is something you could be successful at pursuing/doing.
8. This is where you go into more detail regarding the requirements to enter this field. Certifications, degrees, apprenticeships, trainings, etc. What do you have to do before you can do this job? More specifically, where are you going to attend to take care of these requirements? Yes, pick an exact institution and get information about it. What is the current cost of tuition? For the requirements you need to meet to do your job, how much total are you going to have invested in school/training? Identify how this is going to be paid for. If you have not already been awarded a scholarship, do NOT assume anything. You can mention that you hope to receive such-and-such scholarship, but in the calculation of expenses, do your adding with only the resources you already have. If you plan to borrow some or all of the costs as student loans, that is fine to put down.
9. This is probably the easiest section. Here you can discuss those other aspects of your adult life, such as where you want to live, family plans, hobbies, etc. Basically, the life you see for yourself outside of your career. In all of this, do keep in mind expenses and how those tie into the salary of your chosen career. Comment on whether or not your chosen career will allow you to have this type of lifestyle. Identify any possible limitations or struggles that may be present with your projected salary in regard to family and travel and what not, if those are things you see for yourself. Yes, you are totally correct—there’s not much research to this part.
10. This is where your detailed personal budget will be placed. This is something you will get the details for on Friday, so don’t think about it right now.
11. Hey, all good things come to an end. As such, your research project will need a super swell closing section. Again, put a pause on this section. In order to do it effectively, you probably need to actually have a good deal of your paper written. For that reason, I’m not giving you any specifics for it on our first day in the lab. ☺
* So, that’s it??? Sort of. Actually, no. There will be a couple “bonuses” along the way. No, they aren’t complicated. Yes, you have to wait until next Monday to know what they are. Other than those, you obviously still need the other thing previously mentioned n class, like title pages and a works cited page. This handout is just to give you a guideline for the meat and potatoes of your project. Remember to save all of your sources’ information AS you find them. Do not wait until later to go back and find where some information came from! Do save your work in progress to some form of cloud storage, whether that be DropBox or GoogleDrive or OneDrive or whatever. You should be able to access your work from ANYWHERE on ANY DEVICE!