

*Lord of the Flies* Research Paper Topics

Mrs. Livingston

English IV Honors

SIGN UP ON \_\_\_\_\_

1. Research child development and delineate when certain concepts and advancements happen in youth; then discuss what effect child development might have on the boys in *LOTF*.
2. Research the development of the teenage brain. If the characters were older, how might they solve their problems differently? What are the typical characteristics of pre-teen males? Relate to the older boys and to the young'uns.
3. Golding includes no women in his work. Research brain development in boys vs. girls. Why does he choose to exclude women? What are other possible societal effects when women are absent from a society? Relate your findings to *LOTF*.
4. Research the effects of war on children (physically and emotionally, long term and/or short term). Consider also the use of child soldiers. Then discuss whether or not the actions of the children in *LOTF* can be justified by the effects of war.
5. Research the growth of gangs in America and the reason for the growth and discuss whether the boys in *LOTF* emulate gang development and discuss why or why not.
6. Research youth violence and its reasons and outcome and discuss whether or not the boys in *LOTF* are simply in coincidence with the research or not and state why.
7. Research bullying and discuss whether the actions of the boys in *LOTF* can be seen as a result of bullying and state evidence for your argument.
8. Can morality be enforced by stringent laws? Research different sociological theories and ideas about the necessity of laws and law enforcement. Consider how the morality of the boys was influenced by a lack of laws.
9. Research society versus self. To what extent does society influence the individual? To what extent does the individual prevail? How are they related to each other and to *LOTF*?
10. Research the psychology of leadership. How do leaders emerge? How do leaders maintain their leadership? Relate your findings to *LOTF*.
11. What does educational, sociological, biological, and historical research show about how communities form? How can communities form from randomly selected people? Explain, and relate findings to *LOTF*.
12. Research the different types of leaders, leadership styles, and government systems. Discuss what type of government and leader was present on the island. Use evidence to support your ideas.
13. Research the history of post-traumatic stress disorder and discuss how the societal and medical treatment has changed over time. Connect it to the boys in *LOTF* and discuss how they might be affected by PTSD.
14. Explore the concept of good and evil; what defines each? How does it differ depending on the society or religion? Is there such thing as absolute evil? How do the boys on the island represent each concept?
15. Research the following concepts: the ego, superego, and id. Which psychologists have played a major role in identifying these concepts and how are they manifested in society? How are they represented by the boys in *LOTF*?
16. Kafka and Sarte were influential to Golding. Research their literature and philosophies. How are they represented in *LOTF*?
17. Research the essential values of democracy. How are they emphasized through the boys in *LOTF* and through Ralph's leadership style and goals?

18. Research corrupt or inefficient political rulers, and determine whether a corrupt ruler can preside over a healthy state. Relate your findings to *LOTF*.
19. Research fear and intimidation, coercion and terror, on the psyche. Discuss how these play a role in *LOTF*.
20. Research the Axis Powers in WWII and the treatment of Jews before/during WWII. How are these reflected in *LOTF*? Discuss how different camps and prisoners relate to WWII.
21. Research world leaders of WWII, such as Hitler, FDR, Winston Churchill, and Mussolini. Parallel the leadership styles of these world leaders with their appropriate *LOTF* character. (You may also include Albert Einstein's reaction to WWII.)
22. Research Axis and Allied powers in WWII. What parallels can be made between individuals and nations? Consider both camps.
23. Research internment camps in WWII. Consider holocaust survival stories and the nature of concentration camps. Parallel the practices with *LOTF*, including Jack's camp.
24. Fear of invasion, attack, and the *possibility* of disaster precipitate the actions and attitudes of many characters in *LOTF*, just as they expedite the actions and processes of the military and governments in WWII. Research The Cold War, The Cranberry Scare, The Battle of the Bulge, the Invasion of Normandy, and other military actions and parallel them with *LOTF*.
25. Research disassociation and the human psyche. How can disassociations in the mind generate action? Relate the ideas of the psyche with *LOTF*, including symbols.
26. Research the rise of Hitler and the SS army. Discuss the tactics used to gain power, including the psychological strategies employed by the dictator. How to these relate to *LOTF*?
27. Research famous survivors and survival techniques and tactics. What does it mean to be a successful individual survivor? A successful survivor in a group? Relate these ideas to *LOTF*.
28. Research Biblical connections to *LOTF*. Discuss how Biblical allusion creates allegory, and connect your own ideas with those of literary critics.
29. Research religious imagery in *LOTF*. Consider forces of good and evil, a fall from grace, a survivor, and eventual redemption. How does Golding's depiction of the island compare to the Garden of Eden?
30. Have another topic? See me for approval BEFORE the sign up date.