

The I-Search Project

What is the I-Search Project?

The I-Search Project provides students the opportunity to explore a topic by conducting research and asking questions. The student will learn the importance of critical thought with relation to the research process. Students will include thoughtful insight and perspective to the information they uncover from professional sources. Learning how to properly cite information and present an organized Works Cited page will also be an important part of the learning process. The project is divided into four parts:

Part One: “What I Already Know”

This is going to include background knowledge you already have on the topic before having done any research. You will write three paragraphs discussing your prior knowledge on the topic.

In class we will complete the following activities:

- Brainstorming Session
- KWL
- Webbing
- Journal

Part Two: “What I Want to Find Out”

Here is where you include three or more well developed paragraphs detailing five questions and two reasons for your search. This is where you talk about who you will interview and why.

In class we will complete the following activities:

- KWL continued
- Mapping
- paragraphs about topic including questions/reasons
- interview questions/answers
- The Plan for The Search (part three)
- Journal

Part Three: “The Search”

During part three you will investigate a variety of sources (you must have five sources total – one interview and news/journal articles) NO WIKIPEDIA! This is the body of your paper – you add in your thoughts with what you have learned from other sources. You will cite all sources internally and use first person, since this is an I-search. This is a minimum of five paragraphs, although most of you will have more than that.

In class we will complete the following activities:

- Library Research Time (2-3 days) –

NOTE: This time is available only on certain days. If you are absent, you must make up the research time on your own. Deadlines will not be moved due to absences during library time. Please use ANP or before/after school help sessions to make this time up, or you may work at home.

- Interview (conducted on your own for homework)
- Information gathering (complete more on your own if library time is not sufficient)
- Journaling
- Works Cited Page / Internal Citation Practice

Part Four: “What I Learned”

Here is where you reflect upon the entire search experience. It should be at least one well developed paragraph. Consider the following questions/prompts:

- Reflect on what you have learned and its significance to you*
- *Why is this important in the larger scope of life?*
- How will this affect the way you act in the future?*
- What skills have you developed as a researcher?*

In class we will complete the following activities:

- Journaling
- Powerpoint Presentation

Things to turn in for points:

- KWL **10 points**
- Webbing Activity **10 points**
- Journal Entries (minimum of five, could have more) **25 points**
- The Plan for the Search, including interview questions prior to interview **20 points**
- Sources (highlighted) **25 points**
- Typed Interview **10 points**

Process Total: 100 points

- The Paper itself– Papers without a works cited page / citations will NOT be accepted. **80 points**
- PowerPoint presentation **20 points**

Paper/Presentation Total: 100 points

TOTAL PROJECT: 200 POINTS

Important Policies:

Late Work – only students with verified absences are allowed to make up work without a penalty. The final project may be turned in up to five calendar school days late, at a penalty of one letter grade reduction each day. After the fifth day, the project will no longer be accepted for credit.

Plagiarism/Fabrication – students who plagiarize their paper or fabricate information for sources will be punished with disciplinary action in accordance with the district policy. In addition to disciplinary action, the student will receive a zero on the project and will be required to re-do the assignment.

Incomplete Project – students who fail to turn in a final project will not pass second semester in accordance with the Communication Arts Department policy on research papers.

Extra Help Sessions – students will have the opportunity to obtain extra help or catch-up on projects during before/after school help sessions if you arrange it with Mr. Maxfield ahead of time.