

In-Depth Research Assignment Overview

First of all, this is a process of gathering information, organizing that information, and communicating to the group what you have learned. It is NOT a report. Your topic should be one that will hold your interest for at least the next several months.

Gathering: You need to gather as much information on your topic as you can. It must come from at least 3 different types of sources (internet, books, periodicals, video, photo/images, direct letter/interview, etc) Each source must be cited in proper bibliography form.

Organizing: You will need a three ring binder to organize your source material. You will need a *table of contents*, *Glossary (alphabetized)* of terms pertinent to your subject, *source sections* (Each type of source should be a different tab in your binder), and *bibliography (in proper format)*. Keep track of dates information is gathered, sites visited, pages selected, etc.

Presentation: At the end of the year (April/May) we will begin presenting to the class. You will learn how to make a powerpoint and give a short (3-5 minute) presentation to the class as an authority on your subject.

Helpful hints:

- A 2-inch, 3 ring binder is probably the easiest way to contain your final project.
- Clear sleeves can help to contain articles, letters, written data and notes.
- Be sure to date each article or piece of information you collect.
- You need to *highlight* the main ideas/key points in each source of information (take notes on videos)
- Don't forget to ask relatives and friends to help locate information on your topic

To help *focus* your research, try to keep the following questions in mind...

- Why is your topic important in the world today?
- What are 5 questions an uninformed (novice) person might ask?
- What are 5 questions an informed (expert) person might ask?
- What do you feel are the top 5 most important concepts/facts about your topic that *anyone* should know?
- Who 'discovered' your topic?
- Who is most impacted or concerned with your topic?
- What is your topic about?
- Where do we come in contact with your topic in the world around us?
- Why do we need to be concerned?
- When did this first become an issue or topic of concern to society/world?

Dear Parent/Guardian,
Your son/daughter _____ has chosen to pursue

_____ as their topic for in-depth research. As you will no doubt be a key player in helping to get to the library, monitor internet usage, provide organizational assistance, and be an audience for their newly gained knowledge, please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the above guidelines and sign below indicating your support and understanding. If the chosen topic is not one you want your child to pursue, please discuss and decide on a new one by _____ *when this bottom section is to be returned.* Thanks! Mr M

Yes, I/we agree with/are looking forward to/are excited about the above topic. :-)

We have decided to pursue _____ as a topic instead! :-)

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Student sign: _____