

9<sup>th</sup> Grade English

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Research Project Information Sheet

You will **choose a topic** to research; you will spend time in the library and at home/learning centers **researching** your topic; and you will produce a final **project** presenting your research that follows a proper format for a research paper.

### Purposes of the Project

- **To learn to use a *variety* of sources in looking for information**  
This includes books, computers, encyclopedias, and various indexes to information.
- **To learn to *find what's useful* among different kinds of information**  
Separating what's truthful, factual, reliable, relevant, and useful from the swamp of information available to you.
- **To learn to *synthesize and use* information**  
NOT plagiarizing or copying, not even re-stating in your own words, but *using* information to help say *what you want to say* about a topic.
- **To learn to *present the results of serious research***  
This includes...grammar and spelling, formatting, punctuation, and mechanics, quoting, notes, and bibliography form, and other style matters, such as spacing and margins.

### Your Topic

Of course, you'll also want to learn some interesting and/or useful things about **a topic you are interested in**. You can choose a topic from a list you will be given, or you can choose your own topic not on the list, with your teacher's permission.

### Requirements for the Final Project

**In your research, you must consult *at least five sources of different types*:**

- 1 general knowledge or subject-specific encyclopedia
- 1 book
- 2 internet sources
- 1 other (interview, print magazine article, non-encyclopedia CD-ROM, etc.)

**The final copy should be 1,200 words in length** (approximately 4 pages, double spaced, in size 12 font). (This does not include labels for diagrams, timelines, an appendix, bibliography, etc.) Projects that are *well under* or *well over* this range will be penalized. Narrow or expand your topic appropriately.

**The final copy must be typed, double-spaced, using a sensible font.**

**The final project should have a cover page.**

**The pages of your project must be numbered.**

**The must be a properly formatted bibliography at the end.**

**The research paper should be stapled once in the upper left hand corner.**

**NOTE:**

**WITH YOUR PROJECT, you must hand in EVERY PIECE OF PAPER connected to the project—all notes, pre-writing, jottings, drafts, photocopies, printouts, brainstorming, etc., WHETHER IT ENDED UP IN YOUR FINAL PROJECT OR NOT. Put all this paper in a SEPARATE folder or plastic sleeve labeled with your name and teacher. Start a system NOW.**

### **Grading**

There are three categories of grading criteria for the project. Use this list as a checklist for yourself:

#### **I. Research Process**

- Did you listen to your teacher and the librarian (if applicable)?
- Did you use at least five different resources?
- Did you use a variety of resources, according to the requirements?
- Did you show a knowledge of how to use different resources in the library and at home?

#### **II. Use of Information**

- Did you choose information wisely?
- DID YOU USE ANY INFORMATION WITHOUT GIVING PROPER CREDIT?
- Did you take good notes that summarized the useful parts of your information?
- Did you *use* your information, instead of merely repeating it in your paper?
- Did you use any charts, illustrations, or diagrams only to help your paper?
- Is your bibliography an accurate reflection of your research?

#### **III. Presentation of Information**

- Is your paper neat? Does it look appropriate?
- Is the grammar correct? Is the spelling correct?
- Did you use the correct format, margins, double-spacing, etc.?
- Is your project complete? Is all work included in a separate notebook or folder?