

**The I-Search** is the major research project of your freshman year. The goal of this project is to teach students the fundamentals of research, citation of sources, and organization of a formal, thesis driven essay. Thus, the I-Search not only emphasizes results, but also process. Students will complete a series of steps toward its completion, and a final grade will be dependent on steady progress. Thus, it is your individual responsibility to work towards this goal as independently as possible, since each step of the process has a specific deadline.

**TOPIC CHOICE AND APPROVAL**:

Each student must have a unique historical topic. Topic development could include a subject that we discussed or will discuss in class or a subject that somehow connects to you, your family, or your family’s country of origin. Class time will be reserved to discuss topic choice and approval. Prior to beginning this formal research process, choices will be discussed and decided upon with the guidance and approval of your World History teacher.

**THESIS:**

The most important part of your I-Search project is your THESIS. This is a statement that you prove during your paper and verify throughout. Thus, the I-Search is not a general written report on a favorite topic; instead, you must prove a point that is not a given and not already accepted as fact, and you must use your research to prove that point. You may find that your thesis changes over the course of your research; DO NOT DESPAIR - your history teacher will help in revising it. Here are examples of a good and bad thesis statement:

**Bad:**

Everyone should exercise.

**Good:**

Americans should add exercise to their daily morning routine because it not only keeps their bodies at a healthy weight but also reduces the risk of high blood pressure.

**GRADING:**

**Topic Selection (10pts.):** Complete the provided topic sheet with three potential selections - you may also designate a preference. In addition, you must include a summary of a **tertiary source** of background information for each topic chosen.

**Note Cards (50 pts.)**

Note cards (on noodle tools) make it easier to gather information, record citations, and write your paper. On the notecards, you will gather the information to substantiate your thesis. In addition, your paper will require parenthetical citations in the body of your essay and a Works Cited page at the end. Note cards will help you keep track of your sources and provide the proper credit to the authors. **Avoid plagiarism at all costs.**

You must have at least **SIX** sources:

1 *Tertiary Source* (Encyclopedia, Wikipedia, Ask.com, etc.)

1 *Book/E-Book* (neither textbooks nor encyclopedias count)

1 *Periodical*

1 *Credible Internet site* (cannot be an encyclopedia site like Wikipedia)

2 *Databases* - via the library website (one in which there is a **MANDATORY** \*primary source to evaluate)

***\*You must find at least ONE (1) primary source to use in your paper***

**Outline with preliminary thesis statement: (15 pts.)**

An essay outline is helpful in organizing your thoughts before writing. As the due date approaches, a template and an example will be provided. Your thesis should be in its final form at this point because of the research conducted. **MINIMUM REQUIRED four** supporting/content paragraphs with two or more supporting evidence/specific details per content paragraph (parenthetical citations should be included). This will assist with in-paper citations, as well as completion of the Works Cited page during the writing process.

**Rough Draft: (25 pts.)**

Complete a rough draft according to the same guidelines as the Final Paper below. Submit the rough draft to Turnitin.com to self-revise and confirm originality before the Final Draft. Also, come to class with a rough draft hard copy for peer review.

**Final Essay: (100 pts.):**

* Must prove thesis rather than describe a topic
* Double Spaced
* 12 point font, Times New Roman or Arial Font
* Separate Title Page with name at the beginning
* Parenthetical Citations in every body paragraph
* Use of ALL REQUIRED SOURCES
* Works Cited Page
* Proofread!
* Students will be required to submit their final essay to Turnitin.com.
	+ This database is both a formative & summative tool for teachers & students, which allows students to verify their documentation & citation content, as well as the originality of work.
* Come to class with final hard copy - stapled, no binders.
* **Four page minimum, seven page MAXIMUM**
	+ **(this DOES NOT include Title & Works cited page)**

**PRESENTATION: (50 pts.)**

You will present your findings to the class in a 5-7 minute oral presentation. The presentation can take on a variety of forms, and creativity will be part of the grade. In the past, students have used live talk shows, dressing up as a character from history, or self-made videos. A video clip that is part of a powerpoint presentation cannot exceed two minutes of the total presentation. Parenthetical citations and a works cited page is not required for the presentation.

**EXTRA CREDIT INTERVIEW: (10 pts.)**

Students may interview for extra credit an expert on their topic who is not a member of their family. The extra credit interview must be done via phone or skype or even in person. IT CANNOT BE RECORDED VIA EMAIL. Please see the appendix at the end of this packet for specific instructions.

**DUE DATES:**

* February 14th/15th: Topic selections due **(Include Tertiary sources)**
* March 4th/5th: 1st & 2nd set of notecards **(Book and 1 Primary source)**
* March 11th/12th: 3rd set of notecards **(Internet source)**
* March 18th/19th: 4th set of notecards **(Periodical)**
* March 25th/26th: 5th set of notecards **(Database)**
* April 1st/2nd: -- Outline Due
* April 29th/30th: -- Rough draft for Peer Edit
* May 13th: Hard copy of the final paper with TURNITIN submission
* May 20th: Presentations begin

**I SEARCH TOPIC WORKSHEET**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Topic #1:**

(Family connection; for example, interview your oldest surviving relative: What changes has he or she seen in your family during his/her lifetime? What does he/she know about your cultural heritage? Is there a family trunk/storage area/memory box to provide stories to research or pursue in a historical context? (**Tertiary Source #1**).

**Topic #2:**

(Topics from classwork; **Tertiary Source #2**)

**Topic #3:**

(An additional area of interest; **Tertiary Source #3**)

**Which topic is your first preference?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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APPROVAL: History \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK TOWARDS YOUR GOAL.

I WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR HELP AND TO SOLVE PROBLEMS THAT ARISE.

**I-SEARCH Extra Credit INTERVIEW WORKSHEET**

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Interviewed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title of Person Interviewed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (with area code) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Questions & Answers:

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