**English 3000 Authentic Inquiry Research Project**

The authentic inquiry research project is divided into two parts: a research paper (written by you) and a panel presentation (presented by everyone on your theme team).

**Authentic Inquiry** is an approach to research and learning which begins with a general topic provided by your teacher, then expands into your own interest and experience. From there the research moves through a process of facilitated knowledge construction that leads you to a desired outcome which meets an established set of assessment criteria. It’s authentic because it is authored and driven by you, the student, and because it is real and genuine to your life. Inquiry differs from research in that it requires you to learn about a problem and propose a solution, rather than just write a general informative report.

Though you will have some freedom to develop your own inquiry, your research will begin in one of the following topics:

* **Appearances**- In our attempt to create who we are, it seems that there is much consideration made to how we appear to others. Is it true that our society puts an unneeded amount of emphasis on appearance? How does our awareness of self inhibit or propel the individual?
* **Science-** The increasing knowledge of our evolving world presents moral and ethical dilemmas: how much should humans be able to control? Are we disturbing the natural order when we manipulate gene pools, create GMOs, require organic labeling, give vaccines?
* **Nature vs. Nurture-**Is a person’s innate characteristics the result of heredity or the environment in which he/she is raised? For example, when a person achieves tremendous academic success, did he do so because he is genetically predisposed to be successful or is it a result of an enriched environment? If a man abuses his wife and kids, is it because he was born with violent tendencies or is it something he learned by observing his own parents’ behavior?
* **The Pursuit of Knowledge-** The pursuit of knowledge often leads humans beyond their natural limits as they attempt to access the secrets of life. Is this pursuit of knowledge worth the potential moral price?
* **The Restorative Power of Nature**-The sublime natural world is often viewed as a source of unrestrained emotional experience for the individual, initially offering us the possibility of spiritual renewal. To what extent does nature have the power to heal?

Once you are assigned a theme, you will conduct preliminary research to familiarize yourself with the theme, develop an arguable question in which to explore your theme and pose a problem statement, subsequently developing your own research paper.

**An arguable research question is defined in this way:**

1. The response has to be answerable through multiple sources (three minimum for this assignment - any internet sources must be .org or .net or .edu only).

2. The question must challenge pre-conceived notions, whether these notions are from observations, readings, and/or experiences.

3. There are multiple answers or perspectives to the question.

4. Solutions/Conclusions require factual and verifiable information.

**The Research Paper Format and Requirements**

Your research paper will be broken into four separated sections that will ultimately be integrated into one final written project. Each section will have a due date as listed below.

**Section I: Problem Statement Due: Friday, April 11th**

The first section of your paper will be a minimum of two paragraphs. The first paragraph identifies and introduces the larger universal issues surrounding your theme and specifically the angle in which you plan to research some issue within it. You will pose your problem statement/research question at the end of the first paragraph.

The second paragraph identifies your personal connection to the topic and why it is of concern. You will also outline the process that you plan to conduct or will utilize to research the topic and find a solution.

NOTE: This section **must**be revised before final submission as your understanding of the topic will ultimately increase.

**Section II: Summary of Research Due: Thursday, April 17th**

This section, a minimum of three paragraphs, will summarize and synthesize the research of experts on your selected topic. You will need to establish three different sub-topics or commonalities in which to organize your findings. This section must employ quality transitional topic sentences and well-integrated evidence.

**Section III: Implications Due: Tuesday, April 22nd**

Now that you have summarized the findings of experts, what does this research mean? This section, a minimum of two paragraphs, examines the significance of the evidence and data as it relates to your particular topic. Why does all of this matter? What could this mean for you personally, your community, or the world in which you live? Implications should include both personal and societal connections.

**Section IV: Reflections Due: Monday, Aprill 28th**

The final section of your paper will showcase any reflections on the topic and the implications you have determined from your research. The reflections section could include but is not limited to: posing solutions to your problem statement or answering your research question, reflecting on the research process, limitations on research and answering your problem statement/question, or any further research required to adequately understand the theme.

Your research paper must include a title page, a works cited page, and follow all guidelines for MLA format. You must incorporate into your paper at least three different sources. Two sources **must** be pulled from databases including but not limited to scholarly journals or newspapers/magazines. Internet web site sources are only permitted if site ends in .org or .net or .edu only.

**To receive a grade, your paper must be submitted and pass authenticity validation (less than 30%) from turnitin.com. This paper is due (both a printed copy and turnitin.com submission) on Monday, April 28th.**

**Research Project Sequence:**

**April 7:** Introduction to the assignment; inquiry vs. research; topics of inquiry; theme team selection

HW: get familiar with your general topic

**April 8:** LMC -- exploration of topic/preliminary research

**DUE: Problem Statement/Research Question (1-2 sentences)**

 **April 9**: LMC -- exploration of topic/research

 **DUE: One source and analysis worksheet**

 **April 10:**  LMC -- exploration of topic/research

 **DUE: One source and analysis worksheet**

 **April 11:**  Lab -- Problem Statement (Section I)

 **DUE: Problem Statement rough draft**

 **April 14:** Lab -- Finalize research/source selection; revise Problem Statement

 **April 15:**  Summarizing research; integrating evidence workshop

 **April 16:** Lab -- Summarizing Research (Section II)

 **April 17:** Lab -- Summarizing Research (Section II)

 **DUE: Summarizing Research (Section II) rough draft**

 **April 21:** Peer Editing/Revision work on Sections I & II

 **April 22:** Lab -- Implications (Section III)

 **DUE: Implications (Section III) rough draft**

 **April 25:**  Final work day -- revise/edit; integrate sections into full research paper; write Section IV

**April 28:**  **Research Paper DUE**; begin Panel Presentation work

 **April 29:**  Panel Presentation Work Day

 **April 30:**  **Panel Discussions: Groups 1 and 2**

 **May 1:**  **Panel Discussions: Groups 3 and 4**

 **May 2:** **Panel Discussions: Group 5**

**Part II. The Panel Presentation**

All members of the theme team will present and participate in a panel presentation in which you will all share your problem statements, research with implications, and answers questions from the class. The panel presentation will run for 20 minutes; all members are expected to participate with one another and with the class. Consider it an interactive Socratic seminar. And, similar to a Socratic seminar, the purpose of the panel presentation is to discuss and share information acquired during your research process. You will be expected to field questions from your audience. **ALL team members are responsible for sharing the results of their research and effectively respond to questions from the audience and teacher**. Points are awarded for the amount and quality of your participation.

**Panel Discussion Roles**

Each role must fulfill the requirements and outline detailed on the role assignment sheet.

**Previewer(s)**--The day before the panel discussion one or more team members will provide the class a preview of the inquiries and information each member of the team developed and researched for the research paper. The purpose of this preview is to prep the audience with enough information so it can create interesting and effective questions for the panel on the day of the discussion. This preview should be between 3-5 minutes in length.

**The Introducer**--At the start of the panel discussion, the introducer will introduce all members of the panel, provide a clear definition of the team’s theme, and share the problems and solutions made by each researcher on the panel. This introduction should be between 3-5 minutes in length.

**The Panel**--All members of the panel are expected to share their information with more detail and respond to the questions posed by the teacher and audience.

**The Closer**--At the conclusion of the discussion, the closer will provide a conclusion to theme and offer a general and summative solution and conclusion on behalf of the team. This conclusion should be between 1-2 minutes in length.