

January 8, 2010

Dear Parents,

This nine weeks your child will begin working on a research paper in English I. We will get through this process together. Believe it or not, this process is going to be a rewarding and invaluable experience for your child.

The research paper is a step-by-step process through which I will carefully guide your child; however, I would like for you to get involved and become an integral part in this writing process. You can help by making sure your child visits the library, and by questioning and sharing the collected information at home. The research process your child is about to learn will prove useful throughout his or her life – far beyond the walls of our classroom.

Some of the materials that we will need while completing the research process include the following:

- dictionary (home use)
- thesaurus (home use)
- index cards
- notebook paper
- computer, or access to a computer (We will spend some time in the computer lab at school but access is limited.)
- large manila envelope

Students are to select a topic from the attached list. They will need to complete an initial internet search to make sure they will be able to find enough sources for their topic. Time will be given in school for students to locate possible sources and to check their availability at the school library. Students will be given time at school to use the internet, but due to limited time slots, a good deal of research and typing will have to be completed at home or the local library.

Discussing topic possibilities with your child will help him decide whether or not their choice is feasible. **Students are expected to have at least 4 sources (no encyclopedia or Wikipedia, and at least 1 book and/or article).** It is important to select the topic carefully. Once approved by me they will not be able to change.

The final paper is expected to be no less than 3 pages and no more than 4 pages. The rough draft and final paper must be typed. I can no longer print them for the students from their USB's. The final draft counts as two test grades. More specific guidelines will be sent home soon. The students may also be asked to make a presentation of their papers in class. I will send more information on the presentation at a later date. A handout will also be sent home with a list of due dates for each part of the paper.

As soon as we begin the paper, please check periodically with your child to see how he or she is doing. I will be sending home information with the specifics of the paper as well as due dates with your child this week. I will also send it through email. If I can be of assistance during this research project, please do not hesitate to call or email.

Basic Components

- 3-4 pages in length
- minimum of 25 note cards (one idea per card)
- **outline**
- rough draft
- editing/revising
- **Final Written Piece**
 - Title Page
 - Body of Paper
 - Introduction
 - Body paragraphs
 - Conclusion
 - Works Cited Page
 - note cards/rough draft

Please take some time to talk with your child about their topic, the resources they use, and the direction they want their paper to take. You can help them to focus their topic so that their paper covers a reasonable amount of information

(i.e. “Force and Motion” is probably too broad, while research on “Bernoulli’s Principle” would be narrow enough for the length).

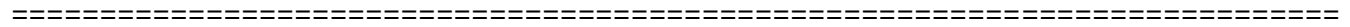
All topics are subject to final approval.

Suggested Resources

- reference books
- texts
- magazine articles
- newspaper articles
- computer access resources (NO WIKIPEDIA or ASK.COM)
- interviews
- visits
- videos/movies/programs
- computer software

If you have further questions please let me know. **Please help your child fill out the bottom portion, sign and return by Friday, January 22, 2010.**

Sincerely,
Hollie Holdren



Student Name: (print) _____

The topic I would like: _____

My parent/guardian and I have read the requirements and the attachments for the 8th grade research paper. We will work together to complete this project and turn it in on time.

Student Signature

Parent Signature