Connecticut Experiential Learning Center
Research Paper Guidelines
Theme Class
Exploration and Discovery

You will choose a person to study, from any field, who has made a significant contribution to the world in some way. You will write a research paper based on this person and will then “become” this person for the theme presentation (5 JUNE 2020).

Along with the formal written document, you must be able to reflect on and discuss the potential impact on the world, and/or how you think the world might be different if this person did not exist. Also, be able to share what you think is most memorable about this person.

Requirements:

1. The paper must be typed and completely edited for spelling, grammar and punctuation.
2. Length: (not including the introduction or the conclusion)
   - ages 10 - 11: 1000 - 1250 words
   - ages 11 - 12: 1250 - 1500 words
   - ages 12 - 13: 1500 - 2000 words
   - ages 13 - 14: 1800 - 3000 words
3. Cover (folder or plastic report holder with attractive cover design)
4. Title page with title of paper, your name, and the date
5. Table of Contents
6. Introduction
7. Conclusion
8. Works Cited with a minimum of 5 resources (while the Internet is a valuable tool certainly to be utilized, at least three of the five must be primary or secondary source materials.)
Assignments and Due Dates:

1. **Due Wednesday, 8 January - Choose your person to study**
   Turn in a minimum of one paragraph describing what interests you about this person (why did you choose him/her?), and at least three questions you would like to answer about this person, his/her life, field of study, et cetera.

   1a. We will be going as a group to the Blackstone Memorial Library Wednesday, 15 January. Bring your library card for any CT library!

2. **Due Wednesday, 22 January : All resources - including web sites - must be brought with you to CELC.**

3. **Due Wednesday, 5 February : Outline Feedback Session in-class**
   Bring working outline to class with questions as we work toward completion.

4. **Due Wednesday, 12 February : Outline**
   Use the outline structure as given in class. (If you prefer to use a different format, you must get it approved by M or M before you begin.). The outline may be modified as you do your research; however, once all of the research is complete, you need to have a working outline that you will stick to for the report writing.

5. **Due Wednesday, 4 March : 1st Check-in for Notes**
   All notes should be taken on index cards (other methods must be approved by M or M). Each card must refer specifically to the outline (example: I / A / 1 / a; we will go over this method in class). **Direct instruction will be given on how to take notes.**
6. Due Tuesday, 10 March: 2nd Check-in for Notes
   All notes should be taken on index cards (other methods must be approved by M or M). Each card must refer specifically to the outline (example: I / A / 1 / a; we will go over this method in class). **Direct instruction will be given on how to take notes.**

7. Due Wednesday, 1 April: Final Check-in for Notes
   You must have a sufficient amount of notes to write the report based on word count and material covered per your outline.

8. Due Tuesday, 22 April: Rough Draft
   Must be a complete first draft, following structure/topics indicated in your outline. Must include works cited and meet the required word count.

9. Due Wednesday, 29 April: Three Visuals
   Must have a minimum of three visuals. At least one visual must be an original, hand-drawn. The cover/title page does NOT count as one of the three visuals.

10. Due Wednesday, 6 May: Final Draft of Completed Paper
    Must be fully edited, include introduction, conclusion, all visuals, Works Cited, Table of Contents and page numbers. Must have title page, which includes title, your name, due date and may also include graphics. Must have a report cover.

11. Friday, 5 June: Theme Event

.................................................................................................................................
DUE: THURSDAY, 5 DEC – Read the information in this packet and sign the following:

I have read and understand the components that are required for this research paper. I am aware of all due dates.

Student name: ________________________________________________

Student signature: ____________________________________________

Parent Signature: ____________________________________________