

Personal Interest Project Timeline

2011-2012

Topic Selection Thursday, Oct. 6

Students select a topic and write a convincing paragraph explaining what they know about the topic, what they want to know, and why it is a good topic for them to research. They must include a list of questions (at least five) they want to answer through their research. I have asked the students to include two alternate topics as well. Hopefully, this will get them to consider other possibilities and will provide back-ups in case the first choice does not work out. It is critical that they choose a topic that will maintain their interests over an extended period of time, one that will be significant and appropriate in terms of new learning, and one for which they will be able to find adequate source materials at their comprehension level.

Resources and Subtopics: Wednesday, Oct. 19

Students submit an informal bibliography of sources they have gathered/obtained so far. They will need to use a minimum of four sources. At least one of these sources must come from an Internet search and at least one must be from print material.

Research Notes: Thursday, Nov. 17

Students thoroughly research a topic of interest using a variety of appropriate sources and focusing on identified subtopics. Notes are taken in an organized manner according to subtopic. Students are encouraged to conduct personal interviews or write letters to experts to obtain information whenever it is practical. Personal interviews often provide some of the richest information for students.

Rough Draft of Research Paper: Tuesday, Dec. 20

Students use notes and knowledge to write an informed, accurate, organized draft.

Final Paper: Thursday, Jan. 19

Students revise rough draft and submit a 3-5 page research paper with title page and formal bibliography. Standard font; size 12-14. Other formatting requirements will be forthcoming.

Presentation Plan: Thursday, Jan. 26

Students submit a proposal for their presentation including a description/drawing of the visual element. Any special needs must be noted, e.g. VCR, computer with Power Point software, etc.

Complete Project with Visuals: Monday, Feb. 13

Students come prepared for class presentations this week.

Project Presentation Night: Tuesday, Feb. 28

Small groups of students will present to parents and families.

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