**Research Project**

English 12

***There are three options for this project.***

**Option 1:** Come up with an open-ended question or two inspired by one of the articles we read in class that you would be interested in researching further. An example for “Our Oceans are Turning to Plastic” might be *How much has the amount of plastic in the ocean changed in the past 10 years? What affect does this have on ecosystems?* For “Silent Spring” it might be *What regulations exist around pesticides and/or herbicides today? What is the impact of these chemicals on the oceans?* For the TED talk “The Happy Planet Index,” you could ask *What are the happiest places in the world? What connection exists between wealth and happiness, if any?*

**Option 2:** Think about a social, environmental, or political issue you would like to know more about in our local school, land or community. Design a research project in order to better understand this issue, and include primary research in your project. (Primary research means that you are designing research questions that may not have been asked [or not to this group or in this way] and finding the answers by, for example, interviewing people, using on-line surveys, conducting garbage audits…).

**Option 3:** Consider what you think an important global issue is today. Research the issue, and come up with either a) a detailed and specific plan that could help to address this issue on a local, national, or global level OR b) a presentation that shows your understanding of the issues, the challenges in addressing them, and some ideas as to how they may be addressed.

I have chosen topic #\_\_\_\_.

1. Do as much research as you need to do to adequately answer your question(s).
2. KEEP TRACK OF YOUR SOURCES using NoodleTools or notecards!
3. Use NoodleTools’ NOTECARDS to organize your information and sources.
4. Figure out what relevance your research has (why it’s important, how it might result in positive change, either your own or others’).
5. Create a presentation to share what you learned. You will share this with the class. Your presentation can be informal, but make sure you convey your information clearly.
6. Create a formal bibliography (MLA style) that includes all of the resources you used (make sure to use a **minimum** of three different sources).

\*This project is designed to be done individually, but with the second option a partner or two might strengthen your ability to be successful. Therefore, if you would like to work with one or two other people, please talk to me and justify this choice. For the first option, you may **present** with a partner if you choose two closely related research questions (i.e. each person is responsible for his/her own research, and the research should be clearly delineated in the presentation, but the presentation would be created and presented together).

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|  | **Excellent (9-10)** | **Good (7-8)** | **Satisfactory (5-6)** | **Poor (1-4)** |
| **Research and/or Action Plan** | Research time was consistently used well; research is thorough, interesting, and clear. Shows thorough understanding of the complexity of the issue. If students have formulated an action plan, plan is clear, specific, and realistic. | Research time was usually used well; adequate research has been done. Research is organized. Shows an understanding of some complexities of the issue. If students have formulated an action plan, plan is clear, but may be somewhat less realistic or specific. | Research time was at times used poorly; some research has been done, but may lack depth. May show a lack of understanding of the complexities of the issue. If students have formulated an action plan, plan exists, but may be somewhat less clear or realistic. | Research time was used poorly; little research done. Inadequate understanding of issue is shown. |
| **Understanding of Topic** | Deep understanding of the topic is clearly shown. Much evidence/information is presented. Sophisticated connections are made between ideas. | Understanding of topic is clear. Clear evidence/information is presented. Logical connections are made between ideas. | Some understanding of topic, but may be unsupported, lack depth, or be confusing or inaccurate at times. Support is given for ideas, but support may be meager or unclear. | Topic is misunderstood or very little support is given for ideas. Disorganized or illogical connections between ideas. |
| **Visual Presentation** | Impressive visual presentation. Work is carefully and professionally put together. Ideas are well-organized, and work includes visuals that greatly add to understanding and interest. | Solid visual presentation. Work is neatly put together. Ideas are organized, and work includes visuals that add to understanding and interest. | Satisfactory visual presentation. Work is somewhat organized, but may not always follow a logical progression. Ideas are conveyed, and work includes some visuals. May seem somewhat rushed. | Visual presentation seems rushed or is sloppy. |
| **Oral Presentation** | Professional presentation. Student is well-prepared. He/she clearly conveys information, speaks clearly with enthusiasm, and faces audience. Outstanding public speaking skills. | Solid presentation. Student is prepared. Student conveys information clearly, and usually speaks clearly and professionally and faces audience. Good public speaking skills. | Adequate presentation. Some information may not come across clearly, or presentation may be brief. May be difficult to hear or understand student, or student may seem less organized or speak somewhat too informally at times. Satisfactory public speaking skills. | Unacceptable presentation. Appears to be rushed or thrown together, is much too brief, or is extremely unprofessional in language/style. |
| **Sources** | More than three different reliable sources are included in an MLA style Works Cited list. | Sources are included in a bibliography; may not be formatted according to MLA. Sources seem reliable. At least three sources. | Sources are included, but may not be formatted in a bibliography, may possibly be unreliable, or only 2-3 sources are listed. | Source information is missing, unclear, or incomplete, or only one source is used. |

DO…

* *Use a MINIMUM of THREE different sources* for your research (see marking rubric below).
* *Use the EBSCO database to find reliable sources for your research.*
* *If NOT using EBSCO, make sure your sources are reliable.* Use sources with a clear website title, publisher, date and author if possible. Government agencies and educational institutions are also good sources.
* *Be aware of bias when using corporate websites.* Publishers may have their own agenda.
* *Keep track of all source information in NoodleTools* or on actual notecards. This way you can cite them easily and ensure you don’t plagiarize.
* Start with Wikipedia. Wikipedia is a great place to start. Spend some time searching for keywords related to your topic, browsing the links on each page, and following suggested resources. Take notes, especially, of good sources they recommend. By the time you are ready to write, have better sources than Wikipedia!

DON’T

* Use ONLY blogs, social media websites, etc. It is too difficult to know where information is coming from.
* Use ONLY Wikipedia. It is a good place to start, but as it can be edited by anyone, is no good on its own.
* Use sites that don’t have an author, publisher, etc.
* Use fewer than three sources.

How to use EBSCO:

1. Go to v2yesnet.wordpress.com.
2. Click on School Libraries in the top tab.
3. Click on Porter Creek Secondary School.
4. Under Databases and Encyclopedias, click on EBSCO Host.
5. Click on EBSCOhost Research Databases.
6. Mostly likely, you will want to check Canadian Reference Centre and click Continue (unless you are looking for another specific database).
7. Under the search window, click on Advanced Search.
8. Check the box under Full Text, and narrow your search in any other way you think will help you.
9. Enter your search terms and GO!

How to use NoodleTools:

1. Go to my.noodletools.com.
2. Login using the school login information:

School/Library Username\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School/Library Password\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_