

Possible Sophomore Research Project Idea

This nine weeks students will conduct a research project that involves reading a book of their choice related to a selected country, completing research, writing/typing a paper following MLA format, and creating a visual and artifact for a class presentation on the research. It is important that students follow the guidelines and schedule outlined in this packet and reviewed in class.

Please read the following expectations and notice the attached timeline that represents the class time that will be devoted to Sophomore Project work. It allows students to see dates that we will be working in the classroom and media center/flex lab for research and typing. Students also will need to work on the project outside of class to ensure completion.

- It is very important that students are present to do research and type on the designated days.
- If a student is absent on a research or typing day, the student is responsible for making up that research or typing on his/her own time.
- If a student is absent on a day when a task is due, the assignment must be turned in as soon as the student returns to class.
- Students are responsible for completing visuals and artifacts outside of class.

Student Signature:

Parent Signature:

Sophomore Project Schedule

- _____ Introduction to Project
- _____ Literature Selection
- _____ Research Dates _____
- _____ Preliminary Note Card Check (30 note cards, 2 sources)
- _____ Final Note Card Check (60+ note cards, 5 sources)
- _____ Thesis, Outline due
- _____ Thesis, Outline, 1st Draft, Works Cited due
- _____ Visual due
- _____ Artifact due
- _____ Final Thesis, Outline, Final Draft, Works Cited due
- _____ Oral Presentation

Literature Selection

Students will read a selection of literature from a culture or country related to World Literature. Completion of this reading will likely require reading outside of class. Your choice of literature must be appropriate to your reading level and approved by your teacher. The selection must be set in your chosen country and/or written by an author from your chosen country. Any countries may be researched except the United States, Canada, countries of the United Kingdom: England, Ireland, Scotland, or Wales, and countries in Western Europe. You want to choose a piece of literature that is open to making the needed connections to the research topics found below. You also will need to choose a country that has experienced or continues to experience genocide. As you are reading, you will tag and identify relevant topics. Reading checks will be done along the way to assess your progress with your book.

Countries to consider:

- African countries: Rwanda, Sudan, South Africa, Darfur, Somalia, Uganda
- Asian countries: China, North Korea, Tibet, Vietnam, India, Cambodia
- Central America: Guatemala
- Caribbean countries: Dominican Republic
- Eastern European countries: Bosnia, Russia, Ukraine, Armenia
- South American countries: Chile, Argentina
- Middle Eastern countries: Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq, Israel, Palestine, Iran

Research

Students will research information on the author/background of this piece of literature and choose two (2) research topic options that are relevant to the country and present in the piece of literature. In addition, they will research the genocide that has or is occurring in the country.

Author/Background Research:

- Early life: birthplace, family, and childhood
- Education and work experiences
- Professional life: motivation for writing novel
- Later life and death

Research Topics to Consider:

- Geography: landscape, location, references to cities, size, population, natural disasters
- History: significant events in the country's existence, origins, wars, etc.
- Structure of Society: government, leaders, education, economics, language, etc.
- Religion: beliefs, god(s), forms of worship
- Food: staple crops, agriculture, farming techniques, ceremonial dishes, traditional meals
- Customs: rituals, holidays, ceremonies, daily life
- Cultural Arts: folk stories, art, music, dance, architecture, sports and entertainment

Note Card Requirements:

- 60 information note cards MINIMUM (3X5 index cards)
- Write 1 complete fact on each note card.
- Paraphrase information into your own words; put copied information (3 or more consecutive words) in quotation marks.
- Write topic headings related to the chosen topics in the upper left hand corner of the note card.
- Write the source number in the upper right hand corner of the note card.
- If the information comes from a book source, write page number of the fact location in the bottom right hand corner.
- From your piece of literature, choose 2 topics from above, and take notes on how these topics are connected to your piece of literature.
- Take notes on the piece of literature's author/background.
- Take notes on the group involved in the genocide – cause, effects, and issues.

- Research your country by the chosen 3 topics. Try to balance the amount of information you have on your 3 topics.
- Separate and organize your information note cards by topic (all geography cards together, all history cards together, all religion cards together, etc.)
- Follow the correct format with topic headings that match the information you have on your note card, source numbers that match the correct source, and page numbers for book sources.
- 5+ source cards - 1 source must be Internet, 1 source will be your book, and 1 additional book source.
- Use your chosen literature as a source.
- There are numerous multivolume and series sets that are available in the media center to use during the school day.
- No general encyclopedias or .com websites may be used as a source.
- Follow correct format for the type of source you are using and give each source a number that will be written in the upper right hand corner.

Make sure that you consult the handouts provided in class to ensure that you have followed MLA citation format for writing your Works Cited cards.

