Career & College Research Overview

1. Scan a passage to determine whether a text contains relevant information.
2. Distinguish between apparent fact and opinion in nonfiction texts.
3. Analyze and synthesize the concepts and details in informational texts.
4. Explain how new information from a text changes personal knowledge.
5. Develop an appropriate strategy for finding information on a particular topic.
6. Use referencing while doing research.
7. Identify and use library information services.
8. Use search engines and other internet resources to do research.

Essential Questions

- What is the American dream and is the attainment of it possible for every member of society?
- How do I plan to reach my American dream?

Introduction

Our overall topic in American literature focuses on the American dream. What is your dream and how do you reach it? Along these lines, nationally there is a push for students to become college and career ready in order for each student to attain his/her dream.
Task
Over the next few weeks you will be writing a research-based paper in order to help you plan your personal path to college and career success. You will complete multiple steps as outlined in these guidelines which include a career assessment and research (including a primary source) which will assist you in

- identifying your personal strengths and interests
- understanding a career
- identifying the required education for your career

You will also be required to present what you learned in a visual format.

Research Paper Requirements

1. Formal topic outline (This does not count as part of the 3-5 pages of your paper.)
2. Thesis statement (This should be the last sentence in your introduction.)
3. Three to five pages typed (introduction, body, conclusion and outline)
4. Twelve-point font: Times New Roman double-spaced
5. MLA 7 format (See OWL Purdue Writing Lab.)
6. Parenthetical documentation (at least one in each paragraph of the body)
7. Works Cited page with URL addresses included as hyperlinks (This does not count as part of the 3-5 pages of your paper.)

Minimum Sources:

Four sources (minimum) are required and must include

- Primary source (extra credit for in-person interview or job shadowing)
- Naviance online source
- Internet source(s) (other than Naviance)

Optional: Print source

As you research, you will make a source card in EasyBib for each of your sources using correct MLA format. You should balance the use of these sources in your paper. Points will be deducted if you overuse a source instead of incorporating a balance of your sources. We will go to the media center where Mrs. Fansher will introduce you to EasyBib and the use of it to help you in citing your sources, making note cards, developing a Works Cited page, and using MLA format. She will also help you learn to evaluate your sources for credibility. EasyBib will be the site where you manage the research and writing of your paper.

Minimum Note Cards:

- Minimum of twenty
- Must have topic headings
- Must be placed in groups

Your cards should be in correct MLA format. Note cards will be made electronically in EasyBib. No facts should be included in your paper unless you have a note card to support it.

Parenthetical Documentation: You must use correct MLA documentation within the body of your research paper. Whenever you use a fact that you researched, you must cite it even if you put it into your own words (paraphrasing or summarizing). Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and will negatively impact your grade.

Works Cited: You must include a Works Cited page using correct MLA 7 format. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and will negatively impact your grade.
Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be treated as such. If an idea is not your own original idea, it must be documented.

Grading – This project counts as a major test grade. Check your work against the rubric to assist you in earning a better grade. Due to the nature of a research paper, you must be vigilant when citing sources. Sources will be checked to insure no plagiarism has occurred. At any time I may request to see any of the sources cited within your list of works. Failure to produce a source may be considered plagiarism. Intentional plagiarism will result in a loss of points.

Part I: Career Research - Your research will produce answers to the following questions:

- What does one need to know and be able to do for this career?
- What high school classes are beneficial and what type of post-secondary education is needed?
- Are there any additional certifications needed for this career?
- What is the expected salary for this career? Include entry level, average, and experienced wages.
- What is the employment outlook and growth rate?
- What daily/hourly hours would one work?
- What type of vacation/benefits can one expect?
- What type of work does one do in this career?
- Are there opportunities for advancement in this career?

Please note: You may certainly expand the scope of this section in order to clarify this career.

Step 1: Naviance
Go to the Naviance website and gather information on interests, careers, and education. You are to use the information you gather from Naviance about the following topics in your paper. I will check online to see that each student has completed the assessment.

a. The Naviance career assessment  
b. The profile of the college you are looking at  
c. The career outlook for your chosen field

Step 2: Primary Source
You will choose one form of primary source research. Choose from one of the following:

a. Job shadowing in your selected career (extra credit). You must arrange this ASAP.

b. Conducting an interview with an individual in a selected career (This may be completed via email, or it may be completed in person for extra credit.) No family members may be used.

Phone interviews are not permitted. If you choose to conduct your interview via email, you should print out a hard copy of all of the email correspondence. Again, the two ways you may conduct the interview is in person (signature sheet required) or email (printed copy).

Step 3: Graphic Organizer
Complete the career portion of the graphic organizer.
Part II: College Research Your paper will examine the important information that you identified while researching your specific college; it will include the answers to the questions below:

- What type of college is it, where is it located, and what is its website address?
- What is the enrollment?
- Is it urban or rural and what is the campus life like?
- What are the admission requirements and the student demographics?
- What are the tuition costs?
- What other expenses are there?
- What type of major might you pursue at this college?
- What is a description of this major?
- What skills are necessary to be successful in this major?
- What high school courses are needed for this major?
- What courses does one take at college to fulfill this major?
- What is the study/workload like for this major?
- What career might one go into with this major?
- What are the viewpoints of current students in this major?
- What other majors relate to this major?
Step 1: Refer to the Naviance website to find colleges that match your criteria.
Step 2: Choose a college.
Step 3: Look for other sources. Search for additional sources which discuss the school you have selected. Read reviews of the school. Try to locate a current student from the school. Interview a member of the college’s admission staff. Do whatever it takes to gather as much relevant information as possible for your paper.
Step 4: Complete the college portion of the graphic organizer.

Part III: Submission of work
You will be required to submit an electronic copy of your paper as well as a hard copy of your paper. Both must be completed by the due date in order to avoid losing points.

Presenting Your Learning
Your visual must clearly present information on both your career and your college. Some suggestions are a brochure, a poster, a PowerPoint, a photo/informational album, or a collage. If you have other ideas, I must approve them at the beginning of the research process. These should be visually attractive and include pictures as well as text.

Helpful Websites

Online Resources/ Subscription Databases
- Universal Search to look up additional books about your college/career
- GALE ebooks
- Testing and Education Reference Center (GALE)
- Ferguson’s Career Guidance Center

Websites
- Personal Assessment Inventory www.iccweb.com
- College Board http://collegeboard.com
- College Major Quiz http://www.mymajors.com/college-major-quiz.cfml
- O*Net Online http://onelink.onetcenter.org
- Free Website Builder (for presentation) http://www.wix.com/

Writing Assistance
- Paper Formatting and General Guide
- In-Text Citations
- Formatting Quotations
- Works Cited Page Formatting
• Colleges and Career Rubric
• Note Cards Checklist
• Source Cards Checklist
• Topic Outline Checklist
• Research Paper Checklist
• Outline Format
• College and Career Graphic Organizer
• Research Steps Checklist