

Unit: Research Paper

STEP 1: Select a Subject

Name: _____

When we did the unit on essays, we wrote argumentative essays. In other words, the thesis statement was a sentence that had two arguable sides. This research paper does not have two sides because it is informational - it is factual information on a subject chosen in consultation with your teacher.

Remember the two types of research papers that Mr. Davis does NOT like:

Papers that are copied and pasted from the Internet – these papers are worthless because they have none of the student in them.

Papers that have no research at all – these papers are submitted by students who believe that they know everything about a topic, so no research was conducted. These papers have too much of the student in them

You need to find a subject that you find interesting, but that you would like to know more about! Generally, any topic that has become an article in the National Geographic would be excellent and appropriate for students in Grade 8. The following topics are off limits: motorized vehicles, weapons, abortion/teen pregnancy and sports.

The following topics would be appropriate: ancient civilizations, vision, animal defences, evolution, planets, oceans, forests, agriculture, mummies, the ice age, global warming, pollution, hydro electricity, computing, communications,

Fill out the following chart to reveal your interests:

SUBJECT	SPECIFIC AREA OF INTEREST WITHIN THAT SUBJECT (You could ask a key question that frames your topic)

ENGLISH 9

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STEP 2: Survey Sources

You need to check out various sources to see if there is information on your topic. Here are some things you need to do:

LIBRARY	Resources Found: (magazines, newspapers, books, encyclopaedias)
INTERNET	Resources Found: (List actual web sites, NOT Google or Yahoo!)
PRIMARY SOURCES/HOME	Individuals from whom you get comments/stories, pictures, and/or letters.