

Unit Organizer--Eighth-Grade English Research Paper

Subject Matter and Relationship to Core Knowledge Sequence:

- ❖ Research essays, with attention to...
 - Asking open-ended questions
 - Gathering relevant data through library and field research
 - Summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting accurately when taking notes
 - Defining a thesis (that is, a central proposition, a main idea)
 - Organizing with an outline
 - Integrating quotations from sources
 - Acknowledging sources and avoiding plagiarism
 - Preparing a bibliography
- ❖ The topics are in accordance with the Core Knowledge history sequence (20th century).

Assessments:

- ❖ Classroom activities with thesis statements, MLA references and in-text citations, note-taking, and paraphrasing
- ❖ Preliminary bibliography and rough draft for paper
- ❖ Final research paper

Standards for Achievement and Performance:

AFTER THIS UNIT THE STUDENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO...

- ❖ Form a worthwhile and focused research question.
- ❖ Gather research sources and know what sources are acceptable/reliable.
- ❖ Transform a research question into a detailed thesis statement.
- ❖ Practice the organic, creative interacting between a thesis statement and further research.
- ❖ Write a correctly formatted, MLA research paper.
- ❖ Use the MLA handbook.
- ❖ Form an outline that becomes a comprehensive organizational tool.
- ❖ Appreciate and know how to use a library, including a library's available online databases.
- ❖ Know what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.
- ❖ Understand and experience the relevancy and liveliness of the research process.
- ❖ Become a person who lives a more examined, inquisitive life.
- ❖ Learn more about 20th century history.
- ❖ Write multiple, quality, cohesive paragraphs that accomplish the task of showing, explaining, and proving a thesis statement.

Character Traits/Habits of Mind:

- ❖ Students often start by viewing research as boring. On the other hand, research is a core component to a fulfilling life, involving important traits: inquisition, curiosity, knowledge

acquisition and synthesis. Students need to grow into people who don't just form questions without follow-up mining of quality material. Also, since a prodigious research paper flows from a worthwhile research question, this teaches students to ask the right questions. Also, the habit of organizing information around a defining statement (i.e. the thesis) is an increasingly important skill in the mass information age.

❖ **This unit is contemporaneous with...**

- The *Twelfth Night* unit
- The essays and speeches unit