

# Strange & Mysterious Research Project

Over the next two weeks, you will be researching a "Strange & Mysterious" topic of your choice. There will be three parts to the project. The research and oral presentation may be done with a partner. The research paper must be written on your own.

- ❖ **Step 1 – Research:** Four days will be provided in class for topic selection and research. You will also be expected to conduct research at home or at the public library. With your partner, you will gather information relevant to your chosen topic and take notes.
- ❖ **Step 2 – Oral Presentation:** Three to four minutes in length, educating the class about your topic. Your presentation must include a visual aid, which enhances your presentation. Organization and knowledge are key components; you must be prepared to answer questions about your topic. A rubric for your oral presentation will be given to you.
- ❖ **Step 3 – Research paper:** A two-three page paper summarizing your research and opinion about the topic you chose. A specific handout about the paper will be given to you.

A note to you parents will be sent home so that they may also give approval of your topic. It is more interesting to listen to presentations on various topics; therefore students may not choose the same topic. Each class will visit the library and/or computer lab three times, but keep in mind that much of the work will need to be done outside of class, so plan your time wisely.

**Due Dates:** Topic Choices due \_\_\_\_\_  
Research Paper due \_\_\_\_\_  
Oral Presentations due \_\_\_\_\_

## Possible Topics:

UFO's	Area 51	Extra Sensory Perception	Stonehenge	
Palm Reading	Bermuda Triangle	Levitation	Tarot Cards	Telekinesis
Loch ness Monster	Astrology	Déjà vu	Crop Circles	Ghosts
Unicorns	Time Travel	Dragons	Atlantis	Easter Island

\*\*Other topics as approved by Mrs. Belmonte and your parent(s)/guardian(s)

# Topic Search

The objective for today is to briefly search three topics before making a final selection for your project. Before you make a final decision, consider what interests you and how much information is available.

**Directions:** Choose three topics and briefly search for information to complete the following chart. You need to have at least three topics,

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>What is it?</u> <u>What are they?</u>	<u>What is interesting</u> <u>about it/them?</u>	<u>What more will I</u> <u>want to find out</u> <u>about it?</u>

Helpful Resources used in the search:

- Gale Research Topics, Noodle Tools, HJMS Library Media Center website

# Research Paper Guidelines

For the writing portion of your project you are required to submit a **two to three page paper** summarizing your research. Much of the information in your paper can be used in your oral presentation.

You must submit a list of your references (“Works Cited” Page) with your paper. You will be taught how to use Noodle Tools by Mrs. Grocki. Use the information in this packet to help you. You must have at least **three sources** and they must be a combination of **print and electronic sources**.

Your paper should cover the following information – use this outline as a guide for your research.

## I. Introduction

Introduce your topic  
Why did you choose this topic?  
Why is it considered strange or mysterious?  
What questions do you have?

## II. Body

Clearly define/explain your topic  
Related terms  
What are the most recent or current theories (at least two)?  
What are their origins?  
What did you learn from your research?

## III. Conclusion

What is your opinion about the topic?  
Based on your research, what is your theory about the topic?  
What unanswered questions remain?  
Do we need the answers to these questions?

**Reminders:** Using *Noodle Tools*, be sure to...

- Put quotation marks around any exact quotes you include
- Write your findings in your own words
- Attach your “Works Cited” page to your paper
- Use at least 3 sources ( a combo of print and electronic)
- Your paper must be typed, double-spaced with the correct HJMS heading
- Clear organization of ideas, strong fluency
- See Mrs. Belmonte if you need help

English 8 - \_\_\_\_\_  
Strange & Mysterious Research Project

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Research Guide

**Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

○ List any related terms:

○ Summarize or define your topic:

## **Recent/Current Theories:**

Theory #1:

Origin:

Theory #2:

Origin:

What questions do you still have?

How can you find the answers?

What other interesting facts or information did you discover?

Resources that I have used?

## **Oral Presentation Rubric**

1. Information is presented in an organized way, making it easy for the audience to follow along. \_\_\_\_\_/5
  2. The information presented is interesting and well-researched. \_\_\_\_\_/5
  3. Student displays a strong knowledge of the topic; able to answer appropriate questions. \_\_\_\_\_/5
  4. Student created a visual aid of the highest quality. \_\_\_\_\_/5
  5. Visual aid reinforced information presented. \_\_\_\_\_/5
  6. Student used well-organized note cards. \_\_\_\_\_/5
  7. Student displays interest and enthusiasm for topic. \_\_\_\_\_/5
  8. Student uses strong eye contact and is able to be heard. \_\_\_\_\_/5
  9. Student followed all requirements for the presentation. \_\_\_\_\_/5
- Total Points \_\_\_\_\_/45

## Written Research Paper Rubric

1. Information is presented in an organized way, making it easy for the reader to follow along. \_\_\_\_\_/10
  2. The information presented is interesting and well-researched. \_\_\_\_\_/5
  3. Student displays a strong knowledge of the topic; able to express his/her thoughts, queries, and insights. \_\_\_\_\_/20
  4. Student followed standard writing assignments guidelines (typed, 12 inch font, double-spaced, etc.). \_\_\_\_\_/5
  5. Student uses effective grammar and mechanics (spelling, punctuation, verb tense, capitalization, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_/5
  6. Student followed all requirements for the written paper (intro, body, conclusion). \_\_\_\_\_/10
- Total Points \_\_\_\_\_/55

English 8 - \_\_\_\_\_  
Strange & Mysterious Research Project

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Project Contract

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner for oral presentation and research: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I will submit my own research paper and that much of the work for this project is to be done outside of class. I also understand that I should seek the help of Mrs. Belmonte if I am having difficulty meeting the requirements of the project.

I am fully aware of the due dates for each phase of the project as stated in my handout.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I am aware of the topic and requirements for the project.

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Belmonte