

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Research Assignment

### STUDENT LETTER, COMMITMENT FORM, AND TOPIC

*To The Student:*

For the next few weeks, you will be completing a Web Quest, and writing a research paper. Remember that the process of doing the background work and writing the paper is just as important if not more important, than the final research paper itself. In the future, you will be asked to write larger papers in high school. This research assignment will help you prepare for those bigger assignments to come.

At Hilldale Middle School, we follow the research guidelines on the attached paper. Please read over these guidelines. ALL papers must meet these criteria. Also attached is a research calendar with due dates, a copy of the grading rubric, and helpful tools for research. Time will be allotted for all stages of the research assignment. **However, if you need more time at any stage of the research process, please see Mrs. Croftcheck.** She will make arrangements with you to give you extra time to complete your work.

For this research assignment, you will be writing a persuasive essay about an exotic travel destination after completing a research Web Quest. You will complete the Web Quest project as a team of two (with the option of completing it individually); however, you will complete the research paper individually. You will draw the name of your destination and your team members in Mrs. Croftcheck's room. You will not switch destinations. What you draw is what you get. You **must** research your destination following the Web Quest guidelines. Each person in the group will have a responsibility: The Travel Guide/Navigator and The Photographer/Culture Expert. The team will research together, and individually. Each member will be responsible for completing their own portion of the research, and come together to create the final assignment and presentation. **Each student** will then write their **own persuasive research paper** stating why their travel destination is the best while using the information they gathered during the Web Quest.

The following information will be included in the research paper about your travel destination: reasons someone should visit, top things to do, what you saw, the climate, environment, best time to travel, and information about their culture (food, clothes, languages, religion, government) that would be beneficial in traveling to a foreign country.

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*To the Parent:*

Please take some time to review the entire contents of this packet. Here are a few ways you can help your child during this process. Pay attention to the research calendar in your son or daughter's assignment packet. This will help you and your child remember the due dates as they approach. You can also drive them to the Muskogee Public Library or provide assistance with research on the computer at home. **All important information will be on Mrs. Croftcheck's webpage, which can be accessed through the Hilldale Public Schools website, as well as on Google Classroom.**

\*We will be doing this research assignment **paperless** through Google Docs. We will do most research, writing, outlining, and citing in this site (the papers in this packet will be completed). Your son/daughter has an account through Hilldale. This assignment can be worked on at home and at school. Students will be sharing their papers with my account, so while they are writing the rough drafts, I can help make suggestions and changes.

\*To access your child's account, go to Google Docs.

Your child's user name should be:

[firstname.lastname@hilldalestudent.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@hilldalestudent.org)

Your child's password should be:

firstinitiallastinitialID#

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Croftcheck at any time during this process if you have any questions. The contact information is:

[lcroftcheck@hilldaleps.org](mailto:lcroftcheck@hilldaleps.org)

918-683-0763

**Remind App** by texting

@hmseng7 to 81010

or for Honors @hmseng7hon to 81010

## Commitment Form

**STUDENT:**

This confirms that I have read through the research packet and that I am aware of my responsibilities and expectations regarding this research project. I am also aware of the calendar, grading rubric, and all other expectations for this assignment.

The country I will be researching is:

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Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT:**

This confirms that I have read through the research packet and that I am aware of my child's responsibilities and expectations regarding this assignment. I am also aware of the calendar and grading rubric for this assignment.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Research Assignment

### Research Guidelines and Requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

1. **Sources** –The requirements for 7th grade are:  
7<sup>th</sup> grade – 1 print and 3 digital/online sources
2. **Research** – Students will have 2 days in the Middle School library and 4 days in Mrs. Croftcheck's room to research and work on the Web Quest. After that, all research will have to be done on student's own time either at home or school with arrangements made through Mrs. Croftcheck.
3. **Research Information** – Students will create a document on Google Docs to copy and paste all information they are using from each source as well as include the sources on a Google Slide of their final presentation.
4. **Writing** – Students will have 3 days in class to organize the parts of their paper, and 5 days to type their papers after all the research has been completed. All other writing will be done on students' own time.
5. **Citing Sources** – Students will create a Works Cited page following the MLA standards for citing sources. This must be completed in the correct MLA format provided by the teacher and handed in with the research paper.
  - We will use the MLA format for all sections of the research paper. You can find how-to help for all research paper sections at [mlaformat.org](http://mlaformat.org) or [easybib.com](http://easybib.com)
6. **Formatting** – All papers **must** be typed in 12 font, black ink, Times New Roman, and **must** be double spaced.  
**\*\*\*Failure to do this will result in reduction of points on the overall research paper grade.**
7. **Page Requirements:**
  - A title page
  - An outline page
  - An essay (must have been checked over by Mrs. Croftcheck during the typing phase)
  - A Works Cited page in MLA format
8. **Due Dates** - All parts of the research papers must be turned in by the due dates assigned by the teacher. Students will receive a calendar of due dates from Mrs. Croftcheck at the beginning of the research assignment. This will also be posted on the school website.
9. **Grades** – The research paper assignment will be worth 300 points. Students will receive a grade sheet at the beginning of the research assignment detailing what each section is worth. This will also be posted on the school website.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Research Assignment

### Content and Organization

**This is the order your project must be handed in!**

#### 1. Title Page

Please put the following information on the title page of your research paper **IN THIS ORDER**:

- The travel destination as your title
- A picture of the destination
- Your name
- Mrs. Croftcheck
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Research Paper
- Paper due date (February 6, 2018)

#### 2. Outline

Prepare a handwritten outline over your topic (provided in this packet). You will submit it to Mrs. Croftcheck by the specified due date. Once you receive the approved handwritten outline back, please type a formal outline as part of the final project to hand in.

#### 3. Essay/Final Draft

You will take the information you have written in your outline, and the notes you have taken, and you will write an essay. A model paragraph guide has been included for you. You will need:

- An Introduction – Introduce your argument and reasoning for why your travel destination is the best place to travel. This will also include your thesis statement as the LAST sentence summarizing your three reasons.
- The Body - This will consist of the three main reasons you are arguing about your topic.
- A Conclusion – This will restate your argument and reasons, sum up your feelings and your trip, and go out with a persuasive bang.

#### 5. Works Cited Page

You **must** properly document where you got your information. This must be done in the MLA format that can be found at [mlaformat.org](http://mlaformat.org), [easybib.com](http://easybib.com), or you can follow the example in this packet.

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### Outline Example for a Persuasive Essay

**\*\*Don't forget to use the 5 added paragraph flavors!!!**

**(Statistics, Questions, Personal Examples, Analogies, and Dialogue)**

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

#### I. INTRODUCTION –

- Attention Grabber/Hook (at least 1 sentence)
- Description of issue (what are you arguing)
- Background information to introduce country, fun facts, etc. Make it interesting! (at least 3 sentences)
- Thesis Statement – your position on the issue + 3 reasons to argue (1 sentence)

#### II. BODY PARAGRAPH 1 –

- Topic Sentence: what is this paragraph about? (1<sup>st</sup> argument)
- Details: Don't forget—EVIDENCE! Details make up the “meat” of the paragraph. This will cover all necessary information. Add “toppings” to make it more interesting! (At least 6 sentences)
- Concluding Sentence: sum it up, and transition into next paragraph (1 sentence)

#### III. BODY PARAGRAPH 2 –

- Topic Sentence: what is this paragraph about? (2<sup>nd</sup> argument)
- Details: Don't forget— EVIDENCE! Details make up the “meat” of the paragraph. This will cover all necessary information. Add “toppings” to make it more interesting! (At least 6 sentences)
- Concluding Sentence: sum it up, and transition into next paragraph (1 sentence)

#### IV. BODY PARAGRAPH 3: –

- Topic Sentence: what is this paragraph about? (3<sup>rd</sup> argument)

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- Details: Don't forget— EVIDENCE! Details make up the “meat” of the paragraph. This will cover all necessary information. Add “toppings” to make it more interesting! (At least 6 sentences)
- Concluding Sentence: sum it up, and transition into next paragraph (1 sentence)

### V. CONCLUSION –

- Restate thesis (opinion) in different words: (1 sentence)
- Summarize 3 reasons (arguments)
- Summarize the trip: What was your favorite part? What would you do different if you went again? Any more interesting facts you didn't tell? (At least 3 sentences)
- Concluding sentence: Go out with a bang! Make a bold statement! Make your reader believe you! PERSUADE them! Mic drop! (1 sentence) \*\*DO NOT SAY THAT'S THE END, THANK YOU FOR READING, THAT'S MY ESSAY, ETC. NO! NO! NO!

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Research Assignment

My Title

Picture of Destination

My Name

Mrs. Croftcheck

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Research Paper

February 6, 2018



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Research Paper Rubric

Assignment	Points Possible
Signed student and parent letter	15 points
Thesis Statement and Introduction paragraph	10 points
Outline - 2 copies – handwritten and final draft submitted through Google Docs	50 points
Final Draft – submitted online through Google Docs	100 points
Works Cited Page – submitted online through Google Docs	50 points
Presentation – submitted online through Google Slides and presented to class	75 points

**\*\*\*Web Quest project will receive a separate grade according to its own rubric**

### Elements for Grading Consideration on the Final Draft

1. **Content:** Accuracy of Information
2. **Focus:** Introduction, Conclusion, Stay on Topic
3. **Organization:** Paragraphing, topic sentences
4. **Support:** Explanations, examples, information, details
5. **Conventions:** Grammar, mechanics, spelling, revisions
6. **Word Processing:** Typing, indenting, spacing, margins,
7. **Formatting:** Proper title page with graphic, proper works cited page, proper outline, proper font, pages in order
8. **Requirements:** On time, rough draft and final draft with all required sections completed accurately by the due date



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Research Assignment

### Google Slides Presentation

Requirements:

**Once your research is completed, you will work together as a team to share your information with each other and put together a scrapbook of your voyage on Google Slides. As a team, write out the journal entries using all researched information.**

Use the list below to make sure that your completed scrapbook has all of the following parts:

1. One slide **introduction** for your arrival, with a **journal entry** of 6-10 sentences explaining what destination you are journeying to and when and what the climate is like when you arrive (You could include information and pictures about your group here!)
2. One slide containing the **map of your journey** (Use the country's map [screenshot Google Maps], and make sure your sites and the order you visited them in are clearly marked on the map!)
3. One or more slides about the **first place** you visited, including at least three pictures with captions and a **journal entry** of 6-10 sentences; in your journal entry, explain why this place was chosen, tell why it is a tourist attraction, and describe what you saw there.
4. One or more slides about the **second place** you visited, with all of the information listed in #3
5. One or more slides about the **third place** you visited, with all of the information listed in #3
6. One slide containing a **journal entry** of 6-10 sentences with information about the **culture of the country** (food, religion, language, clothes, government) and at least three pictures with captions; explain how it is different from the culture of the United States
7. One slide listing the **web sites** you used to find the information and pictures; list these in MLA format

**This will be presented to the class as part of the grade for this assignment. Failure to present your slide show will cause a deduction of points.**