

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

### “Choosing a Career”

#### **STUDENT LETTER, COMMITMENT FORM, AND CAREER CHOICE**

##### *To The Student:*

For the next few weeks, you will be 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 in the future.

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 schedule, due date schedule, 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 Ms. Dover. She will make arrangements with you to give you extra time to complete your work.

For this research assignment, you will be choosing a career that interests you. Think about what you want to do in the future, basically, “what you want to be when you grow up”. Eighth grade is the perfect time to begin to think about your future. You may, and probably will, change your career choice many times before you get there. But preparing for your future is important, and this is just the first step in the educational path to get you there.

##### *To the Parent:*

Please take some time to review the entire contents of this packet. In addition, please speak with your student about the career he or she has chosen. Here are a few ways you can help you child during this process. Remove the “Parent Copy” of the schedule and place it somewhere at home. 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 Ms. Dover’s webpage, which can be accessed through the Hilldale Public Schools website.

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

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

918-683-0763

**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 schedule, grading rubric, and all other expectations for this assignment.

The career 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 schedule and grading rubric for this assignment.

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

## Research Guidelines and Requirements for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

1. Sources – All sources must be primary sources. The requirements for 8<sup>th</sup> grade are:  
8<sup>th</sup> grade – 2 books and 3 online sources
2. Research – Students will have 2 days in the Middle School library and 2 days in the Middle School computer lab. After that, all research will have to be done on student's own time either at home or school with arrangements made through Ms. Dover.
3. Writing – Students will have 2 days in class to write their papers after all the research and notecards have been completed. All other writing will be done on students' own time.
4. 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.
5. Typing – Students will have 2 days in the Middle School computer lab to type their research papers. It would be very beneficial for students to own a flash drive on which to save their research. Any other typing will have to be done on the students' own time. Arrangements can be made through Ms. Dover for extended computer time at school.
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 with graphic
  - An outline page
  - Rough Draft
  - A Works Cited page
  - A typed Final Draft – The final draft length must be three typed pages.

### \*Honors Class Requirements:

The Honors class will have the same requirements except their final draft length will be four typed pages.

8. Due Dates - All parts of the research papers must be turned in by the due dates assigned by the teachers. Students will receive a calendar of due dates from their teachers 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.
- 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)

Content and Organization  
This is the order your project must be handed in!

Title Page

Please put the following information on the title page of your research paper:

- A creative title
- A graphic
- Your name
- Ms. Dover
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Research Paper
- October 4, 2013

Outline

Prepare a “rough” outline over the career you chose. You will submit it to Ms. Dover by the specified due date. This may be done on notebook paper. However, once you receive the approved “rough” outline back, please type it as part of the final project to hand in. An outline guide is provided in this packet.

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. You will need:

- An Introduction – This must include your thesis statement. You might start with an interesting sentence that captures the reader’s attention. You could also use interesting facts or anecdotes in your first paragraph.
- The Body - This will consist of the three main points you found out about your career. Each point will be written with explanation, details, and examples about that point.
- A conclusion – This will be a good place to explain your personal feelings about your career and to sum up the essay overall.

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) or you can follow the example in this packet.

Outline

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

For each Roman Numeral, you should come up with information, explanation, details, and examples to support your ideas.

Career Research Outline for: \_\_\_\_\_

(career you are researching)

- I. Introduction - Thesis Statement
  - A. Reasons for studying this particular career.
  - B. You might include interesting facts or anecdotes.
  
- II. History of the career
  - A. Research back as far as you can to find out about your career.
  
- III. Duties of this career
  - A. General Duties – what kind of work will you be doing
  - B. Hours of work ordinarily required or typical workday
  
- IV. Qualifications of workers in this field.
  - A. Education – college or job training
  - B. Where do you go for education
  - C. Age, health or physical requirements
  - D. What makes you a good candidate for a career in this field
  
- V. Education Planning
  - A. Develop your own education plan, including preparation for this career, including courses you've taken or will take in high school to prepare.
  - B. Other training-apprenticeship or experiences you could gain while preparing for the career
  - C. What are your career goals
  
- VI. Related Fields
  - A. List and briefly describe seven career fields related to the one you have chosen to explore.

VII. Earnings

- A. How much can you expect to make from this career?
  - 1. Beginning salary?
  - 2. Average Salary?
  - 3. Exceptional Salary?
- B. What expenses might you have to meet in following this career?

VIII. Nature of the Job

- A. List some benefits, other than salary, that you would expect to gain from this career.
- B. What hazards can you anticipate in this job field?

IX. Conclusion - Reflection

- A. After studying this career in depth, state why you would or would not be interested in making this your own career objective. This is where you would restate your thesis statement and sum up your paper overall.

My Title



My Name

Ms. Dover

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

October 4, 2013



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Research Paper Schedule

Assignment	Due Date	Points Possible
Signed student and parent letter	September 4 <sup>th</sup>	50 points
Outline	September 7 <sup>th</sup>	50 points
Notecards	September 17 <sup>th</sup>	50 points
Rough Draft	September 20 <sup>th</sup>	50 points
Final Draft	October 4 <sup>th</sup>	100 points

### Grading

The research paper will be graded on the following areas.

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

## Proofreading/Grading Marks

Mark	Explanation	Examples
	Begin a new paragraph. Indent the paragraph.	¶ The space shuttle landed safely after its five-day voyage. It glided to a smooth, perfect halt.
	Add letters, words, or sentences.	My <sup>best</sup> friend eats lunch with me <sup>e</sup> very day.
	Add a comma.	Carlton <sup>,</sup> my Siamese cat <sup>,</sup> has a mind of his own.
	Add quotation marks.	¶ Where do you want us to put the piano? <sup>¶</sup> asked the gasping movers.
	Add a period.	Don't forget to put a period at the end of every statement. <sup>.</sup>
	Take out words, sentences, and punctuation marks. Correct spelling.	We looked at <del>and</del> <sup>and</sup> admired the model air <sup>2</sup> planes.
	Change a capital letter to a small letter.	We are studying about the Louisiana Purchase in <i>H</i> istory class.
	Change a small letter to a capital letter.	The Nile <u>r</u> iver in <u>a</u> frica is the longest river in the world.
	Reverse letters or words.	To comple <sup>2</sup> t the task successfully, you must follow <u>carefully</u> the steps.