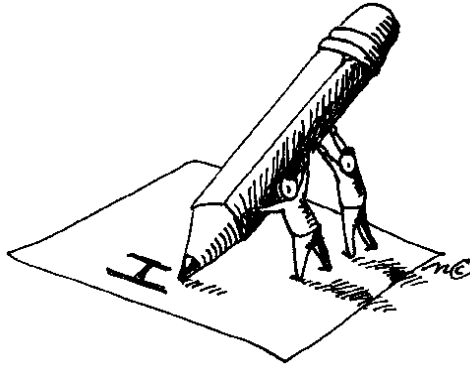


I-Search Overview



What is an I-Search?

An I-Search is a paper in which “I” learn about a subject and how to do real research!

Why is there an “I” in I-Search?

Because it is your own personal search. No two I-Search papers are alike.

How is an I-Search different from other research papers you have done in the past?

It is your perspective. It details the process you used to get the information about your topic. It is organized differently. It is student centered.

What are the five major sections of an I-Search paper?

Part 1 – What is your topic, who is in your group, and everything you know about your topic before you do research in the library.
Part 2 – Questions about your topic.
Part 3 – The answers to your questions (the research)
Part 4 – How I found the answers to my questions and what I learned about doing research (the process)
Part 5 – Works cited (bibliography)

When and why will I do part 1?

You will do part 1 of your I-Search paper before you go into the library to do research. You will do this so you can show what you already know about your topic (prior knowledge).

When and why will I do part 2?

You will do part 2 of the paper after you do part 1. **This is the most important part of the paper because if you do not have good questions you will not have a good paper!** In order to do a good job, make sure your questions cannot be answered by simple one sentence answers. Strive to have multiple part questions. You will be doing part 2 so you already know what you are looking for before you go into the library.

When and why will I do part 3?

You will do part 3 once you have finished writing good questions. This is the largest part of your paper in that it will contain all the information you are looking for in your questions. All of your questions will be answered in this part of your paper as well as any additional information you come across that you think is interesting as you do research. **For each question you will need to write a claim (thesis statement) that you support with the information you found during research.**

When and why will I do part 4?

You will do part 4 of your I-Search paper **as you do part 3**. You have to write about how you found the answers to your questions as you do your research. You will do part 4 at the end of class or at home by using the bottom of your research notes reflection section. Write down what you did, what sources you found, how you are feeling, if you got help, or anything else that explains the process of your research.

You will also complete a small portion of part 4 after you have finished part 3 by reflecting on what you learned about yourself as a researcher. Part 4 allows you to really reflect on the purpose of this paper, which is to not only learn about a specific topic, but more importantly, learn how to do good research (a skill you will need for many years to come).

When and why will I do part 5?

Part 5 of your I-Search paper will be a separate document that lists all of the resources you used to answer your questions. This works cited (bibliography) document will list all books, databases, websites, or video clips used to answer your questions.

Does my paper have to be typed?

All I-Search papers will be typed on Google Docs

- Arial or Times New Roman font
- Use 12 point font
- Double spaced
- 1 inch margins
- Cover page with the following information
 - Heading: "A Walk Through the Middle Ages"
 - Your I-Search topic
 - Picture of your topic
 - Name (first and last), Teacher Name, Period, Date



Words of Wisdom

STAY ORGANIZED AND DON'T PROCRASTINATE!
Type as you do research. Don't wait until the last minute.