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

English 9

How do we learn in the 21st century?

**in·quir·y**

**1.** a seeking or request for truth, information, or knowledge.

**2.** an investigation, as into an incident: *a Congressional inquiry into the bribery charges.*

**3.** the act of [inquiring](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/inquiring) or of seeking information by questioning; interrogation.

**4.** a question; query.

**The Learning Process Research Project**

The following is a process by which one can educate her/himself.

**Step One: Think/Wonder (Discover ideas lurking around in your head)**

Curious people are constantly wondering about new topics. Explore your community, the internet, your mind. Read, view, and listen for information about subjects you want to learn more about. Use the resources that surround you and decide which topic you want to take on. Take a look at recent newspapers and watch the news. What is happening in the world that makes you curious?

After you have decided on a direction, and had a chance to discuss your ideas with your teacher, settle on a topic and begin to develop your inquiry questions. Curious people are constantly thinking about the world. Now it is your chance to investigate something you find interesting.

**Step Two: Plan (Develop a sense of direction)**

Take some time to plan your next steps. What are your goals for learning? Why are you learning this and what are you going to do with the information? What resources can you use? What key words will you use to search? Where are you going to look? Who is the audience you are trying to reach?

Once you have developed a plan, you need to compose a project proposal. This proposal should be at least 1.5 typed pages. In it you should clarify your research goals and what you hope to accomplish throughout the process. You should also point to specific resources you will look into to find the answers to your questions.

Your proposal is due:

**Step Three: Find reliable sources of information (Learning Folder)**

In this age of information, it is essential to evaluate the source of information. You must ask yourself if the source is credible. Remember that information is distributed for many purposes (persuade, argue, inform, express, evaluate, etc.) and biased or inaccurate information is not always easy to identify.

Not all sources require proper MLA citations; however, when you find a *great* source and are ready to document it, create a research note sheet and MLA citation. Go onto NOODLE TOOLS on the library homepage or easybib.com. Follow the directions and you will do fine.You must have three *great* sources and citations for your project which will be due at the end of the project.  
  
**Step Four: Connect (Learning Folder)**

How does the information you’ve found satisfy your curiosity and answer your question? Read, skim, watch, listen, talk, analyze, see patterns, compare, record information **in your own words** and evaluate again. Take notes. Keep records! The records you keep will make up your learning folder (see attached description).

Take focused notes that connect directly to your assignments. Extract notes necessary to accomplish your goal. Evaluate again, revise notes, infer, conclude, recommend and begin to create.

Although you will all be working independently, outside of the initial class research time, we will take time in class over the next few weeks for each person to present their progress on their topic. Each student will give a two to three minute presentation and show several sources to the class.

**Step Five: Create Product (Writing Purposes)**

**This will be discussed after the initial research stages.**

Use the information gathered to create something new.

Create your product/s keeping in mind the following professional standards:

- Proper grammar and spelling

- Organization and clarity

- Engaging style and voice

- Thorough overview of the topic

- Ethical use of information and images

Answer all aspects of the task. This aspect of the assignment will be discussed in greater depth in the coming weeks.  
  
**Step Six: Evaluate**

Judge your project. What went well and what needs further attention? Consult the rubric. After the project is completed you will write a reflection paper where you discuss how you did, what you accomplished, and how you may change your research practices if given another opportunity. This will be due in June, before the final exam.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Aware | Enable | Empower |

How will you complete your goals?

Use this organizer to brainstorm various ideas and topics for inquiry.

I know:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A lot | Some | A little |
|  |  |  |