**Research Project-8th Grade Language Arts**

**OVERVIEW**

You will complete a research project to help you and your classmates discover how science and technology affect our society.

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**

**Skills:**

* How do I determine what quality sources to use when conducting short research projects to address specific or self-generated questions?
* How can I write a concise and well-written informative piece of writing?
* How can I effectively present my research using multimedia and effective public speaking skills?

**Understandings:**

* What are ethics and morals?
* How do ethics and morals affect the decisions we make in our society?
* What are the effects of science and technology on our society?

**COMMON CORE STANDARDS:**

**W.8.2** Write informative/ explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information

through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

**W.8.7** Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing

on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.

**SL.8.1** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led)

with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing

their own clearly

**SL.8.4** Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant

evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

**Assignments & Due Dates**

1. Write a presentation proposal **(Due Monday, November 3)**
2. Create an outline for your research paper **(Due Friday, November 7)**
3. Write a rough draft for your informative research paper **(Due Wednesday, November 12)**
4. Write an informative essay on your research topic with a works cited page **(Due Monday, November 17**)
5. Write a reflective essay about the research project and what you learned (**In class assignment on Monday, November 17)**
6. Prepare and present a five minute presentation that includes visual aids. \*Any and all photographs that are not original creations must be properly cited **(Due Thursday, November 21 and Monday, November 24)**
7. Complete an evaluation on your work ethic and preparation for your presentation (**Due Tuesday, November 24**)
8. **Presentation Proposal (20 points) - Due Monday, November 1**  
   The presentation proposal is where you explain what you are going to research, why it’s important, and how you will present the research in addition to an informative essay. The presentation proposal must be: a ½ page minimum in length, typed using12 point font, and double spaced.

**Presentation Proposal Format**

Name

Class & Period

Date

Presentation Proposal

**Topic:** List it (For example: Modern Day Slavery)

**Rationale:** In paragraph format explain why you chose this topic. Why is it important to you?

**Essential Questions:**

**Through this research project I will address the following questions:**

Please list the questions that you are going to answer through your research.

**End product:**

In paragraph format, please explain how you are planning to present your research. Explain why you think this will be the best way to present your information. Be sure to include the materials and things you will need in order to create your visual aid(s) and present the information.

**Presentation Proposal Example**

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Language Arts 5-6

February 5, 2014

Presentation Proposal

**Topic:** Gender Wage Gap

**Rationale:**

I selected gender wage gap as my topic because it is something that I want to learn more about. I came about the idea after I asked my mom what she thought an interesting social justice topic might be, and this is what she suggested. Although I didn’t know at the time what the term gender wage gap meant, I did a bit of preliminary research and I am instantly hooked. Also, I realized that this is something I have been curious about even as a grade-schooler, when I asked questions such as, “Why are there more man doctors than lady doctors?” and “Can I be anything I want to be when I grow up?” Because I picked up on clues of this social injustice from an early age, I selected it as my research topic.

**Essential Questions:**

● Who studies/analyzes the gender wage gap?

● What jobs have the largest gender wage gap?

● What cities throughout the US have the largest pay difference for genders?

● Where are locations where the gender wage gap is the highest?

● Why does the gender wage gap exist?

● How does the gender wage gap affect families?

**End Products:**

I am planning to present my research in the form of a children’s storybook. I feel that this is an issue that many children don’t know much about, but (like me as a child) could be interested in. I will write a fictional story that uses catchy rhymes about a divorced mother and father. The daddy will have a nicer house and more toys than the mommy, although both will have the same job and will have attended the same college. This project will require cardstock that I will laminate after illustrating, spiral binding, and a typed storyline. My goal is to educate young kids with basic facts about the gender wage gap, including my little siblings. Hopefully, this children’s storybook will be a fun and educational project for interested kids like me!

1. **Outline (20 points) – Due Friday, November 7**

Additional information will be given during class for this assignment.

1. **Informative Essay Rough Draft (20 points) – Due Monday, November 12** (may be typed or hand-written)
2. **Final Draft with Works Cited Page (54 points) – Due Monday, November 17**

Topics may include (but you are not limited to these):

* + - * Genetic engineering on humans
* Stem cell research
* Cloning
* Organ donation
* Plastic surgery
* Genetically modified foods
* Biomedical engineering
* Antibiotic resistance

Requirements:

* Typed -12 point font
* Double spaced
* 3-5 pages
* MLA format – cite 3-5 sources
* Written objectively
* Use 3rd person
* See attached rubric for more information

An example of a research paper with a works cited page has been attached. While this paper is well-written, you may still find minor errors. Despite this, it is a good example of what you are expected to do. Please look this over and use it as an example to guide you in the writing process.

Name

Teacher’s Name

Class & Period

Date

**Endangered Species Outline**

1. Introduction
   1. Hook
   2. Thesis
2. Definition of endangered species
3. Endangered Species
   1. Big Cats
   2. Primates
   3. Birds
   4. Other species
4. Causes of endangerment
   1. Loss of habitat
   2. Overhunting
   3. Pollution
   4. Introduction of predators or competitors
5. Methods of saving species
   1. Cleaning up pollution
   2. Help with breeding
   3. Reintroducing to the wild
   4. Controlling hunting
6. Agencies
   1. World Wildlife Federation
   2. African Wildlife Foundation
7. Success stories
   1. Trumpeter swans
   2. Alligators
   3. River otters
8. Conclusion
   1. Reword & restate thesis
   2. Clincher statement

Name

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

**Introduction**

Possible ideas for the introduction (see front side of handout for suggestions):

**Thesis Statement** (Usually the last sentence(s) in the introduction):

**Body** (A paper may have a few or many main points; decide how many your paper will need)

Main Point: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Examples/Details/Explanations:

a.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Main Point: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Examples/Details/Explanations:

a.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Main Point: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Examples/Details/Explanations:

a.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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c.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Main Point: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Examples/Details/Explanations:

a.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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c.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion**

Reworded Thesis (Usually found near the beginning of the conclusion):

Clincher Ideas:

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Mrs. Colvin

Language Arts 5-6

5 March 2013

**Unequal Pay Continues Today**

A few decades ago, a woman named B.J. Wilkinson made a decision that was

very bold at the time. She decided that it was her life’s ambition to become a carpenter.

Her talent blossomed as she practiced her craft. Since B.J. was supporting three sons,

she soon accepted a steady job in the carpentry business, receiving seven dollars an

hour. Shortly thereafter, however, a man with less than *half* of B.J.’s experience was

hired in her same department . . . and he was paid twelve dollars an hour. The

difference of five dollars between B.J. and her male coworker meant that he earned

$10,000 more than B.J. annually. At the time, B.J. was experiencing the effects of

“gender wage gap.” According to *The Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History,* a

gender wage gap is defined as "the difference in earnings between [average] female

and male workers” (Navarro). This gap has fluctuated with time, but recent census

statistics report that the average working woman in the U.S. earns only $0.77 for every

equivalent dollar a man earns. Over the span of a year, the gender wage gap can

result in some men being paid up to $56,000 more than women who are doing the

same job. Though the gender wage gap has evolved throughout history, it still affects

many women on a worldwide scale.

Throughout the history of the United States, paycheck equality has fluctuated,

depending on the economic conditions. Women began to acquire steady jobs around

the early nineteenth century in the U.S. Initially, many females were not as productive

as men, so their wages reflected that. This expectation of low wages discouraged many

women from seeking employment. However, during the Great Depression, more and

more women went to work out of necessity. When the U.S. economy improved, more

men entered back into higher-paying professions, which further distanced the salaries

of women from the salaries of men. It wasn’t until the early 1970s that it became more

widely accepted for women to go to college. From the 1970s through the 1990s, the

wage gap difference decreased by about 1% a year, meaning women’s salaries were

getting closer to men’s salaries. In sum, the wage gap in the U.S. has fluctuated: less

of a gap during depressions, and more during economic expansions.

There are many variables that affect gender wage gap, including one’s level of

education and job type. On average, a woman who is a high school graduate makes

$700,000 less over her working lifetime than a man with her same job. This difference

increases for people in the U.S. with greater education levels. For example, an average

woman with a professional school degree makes $2,000,000 less throughout her life

than an average man in her same employment situation. Beyond professional school

graduates, those who work in financial fields have more wage gap than any other

category. Statistics show that women living in the U.S. working in a finance-related job

make only $0.71 for every equivalent dollar that a man makes. This shifts in the

construction field, where gender equality is the greatest. In fact, women make $0.92

per male dollar on average. Therefore, the bottom line is that the more education women have, the closer their average salaries are to men’s average salaries.

Another factor that affects how much of a gap there is between average women

and men’s salaries is job location. For instance, in the United States, Louisiana is the

state with the largest wage difference. Many surrounding states experience similar

wage gaps. However, in countries that are not as advanced as the United States,

women do not always have the same educational opportunities as men. In addition,

females in undeveloped or developing nations are not guaranteed equal wages

because of their sex, though they are promised this in the U.S. In specific, the least

wage equalities can be found in southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Lower

percentages of equality can be found in countries that are less advanced and in certain

regions of the U.S.

Currently, there are organizations that are meant to combat the issue of gender

wage gap. One primary example is a non-profit entitled Women Are Getting Even, or

WAGE. Evelyn Murphy founded WAGE, and she uses her organization to hold

nationwide workshops. Ms. Murphy also has written a book about reducing gender

wage gap, in which she describes a detailed plan for women to seek equivalent pay. In

addition, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) researches and

reports cases of gender discrimination in the workplace. In short, the WAGE and

EEOC organizations are doing their part to reduce wage gap.

Gender wage gap inequality is still prevalent all around the globe, although

efforts are being made to eliminate (or at minimum, reduce) this social injustice.

Although these efforts are making progress, are world citizens doing enough to forget

stereotypes of the past? After all, for carpenters such as B.J. Wilkinson,

anesthesiologists, and everyone in between, unequal pay continues today.

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Language Arts 5-6

5 March 2013

**Works Cited**

Mankiller, Wilma, Gwendolyn Mink, Marysa Navarro, Barbara Smith, and Gloria

Steinem. "Wage Gap." Sirs, 1 Dec. 1991. Web. 9 Feb. 2014.

Murphy, Evelyn. *Getting Even: Why Women Don’t Get Paid Like Men--and What to Do*

*About It.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 2005. Print.

Ross, Robert. "Study Alleges Louisiana Has Largest Male-Female Wage Gap In

U.S." *The Pelican Post*. N.p., 1 Dec. 2011. Web. 11 Feb. 2014.

“Women and Gender Inequality.” Sirs: 03 Dec. 2002. Web. 12 Feb. 2014.

1. **Reflective Essay – Due Monday, November 17 In CLASS**

Additional information will be given during class for this assignment.

1. **Research Project & Presentation – Due Friday 21/Monday 24**

You will transform the information in your research paper into a presentation. For your presentation you will need to create a project to share with the class that clearly demonstrates your understanding of the topic you chose to research. Please select one of the following projects according to the highest grade you would like to earn:

**A**

* Public service announcement
* Children’s storybook
* Musical soundtrack

**B**

* Graffiti billboard
* Brochure
* Art piece

**C**

* PowerPoint or Prezi
* Poem
* Photo journal

1. **Project & Presentation Evaluation – Due Tuesday, November 24**

Additional information will be given during class for this assignment.