**Assignment: Independent Reading Project**

Assignment Overview: The Reading

**ELA’s 6 Strands**

There are 6 Strands of ELA – reading, writing, speaking, viewing, listening, representing. During the first semester’s Independent Reading project, we will be focusing on reading, speaking, and listening.

**Project Overview:**

This semester, you are to read at least 1 book from start to finish. As you read, you will select a topic that comes up in your book (it can be anything that is discussed – but try to choose a topic that comes up often, since it will be easier to do your project this way).

Your project will be threefold, and will include: literary research, expository research, and presentation

1. Literary – Facts from your book
2. Expository – Facts from the internet
3. Presentation – Of both your literary and expository research to the class

You may present your content to the class in any way that you want – just make sure to keep your audience (teenagers) in mind. Some examples of presentation formats you might want to use include Powerpoint, Prezi, Glogster, A Website, A Bulletin Board, etc. You must be sure to include **activities that will engage your audience** with your subject matter. Thus, you should try to include elements that appeal to multiple intelligences.

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Assignment Overview: The Doing

**Topic:** Replace this text with the topic you will be studying

**Independent Novel:** Replace this text with the novel you are reading

**Author:** Replace this text with the author of that novel

**I am interested in learning more about this topic because:** replace this text with an explanation of why your topic interests you

**Some things I knew about my topic before reading my book are:**

* Replace this text with point-form examples of what you already know

Part 1) Literary Research: The Reading

You will be using content from your book to introduce the topic covered in your presentation. By content, I mean **events that occur in the book and characters’ reactions to, and opinions of, these events.**

In this part of your presentation, you must include:

1. Context – When, why and how your topic is brought up in the book
2. Characters – How the characters in the book view your topic (this includes both the characters who attend them, and the characters who don’t)
3. Learning – What the book taught you about your topic and how it shaped your opinion of it
4. Further Learning – 5 questions (about your topic) that the book left you wondering

In order to support your literary content, you must cite quotes and paraphrase events (make sure to record the page numbers they occur on so you can find them later, and so that Ms. Hammond knows you didn’t just make your information up).

Here is an example:

Topic = Prep/Boarding Schools/Independent Novel: “Looking for Alaska”/Author: John Green

I would begin my presentation with a discussion of why I chose my topic, then follow it up with an explanation of how the topic is handled in the book. I would include the following information:

1. Context - When and why prep schools are brought up in the book
2. Characters – How the characters in the book view prep schools (this includes both the characters who attend them, and the characters who don’t)
3. Learning – What the book taught me about prep schools and how it shaped my opinion of them
4. Further Learning – What the book left me wondering about prep schools (**5 questions**)
   * Do we have prep schools in Canada?
   * How many prep schools are there in the world?
   * Do prep schools produce better students than public schools?
   * Do prep schools harm the relationship between parent and child?
   * Is it affordable for the average family to send their kids to prep school?

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Part 1) Literary: The Doing

**0. Research – Some places in my book that discuss my topic are:**

For this assignment, you must record examples from your book by either quoting or paraphrasing them and citing the page number that they occur on. Using info found in your book, fill out the chart below. Try to come up with at least 3 examples right now.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Page #** | **Characters Involved** | **Description** |
| 12 | Miles Halter  Miles’ Dad | Miles finds out that his parents are sending him to Culver Creek Prep school in Alabama, where his dad went as a teenager. He is excited since he will be leaving his boring, friendless life behind, and going on a quest for what he calls “the great perhaps” |
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**1. Context – My topic first gets brought up in my book because:**

* Replace with an explanation of the situation surrounding your topic. When is it introduced? How is it introduced? Why is it introduced? Is it a large or small part of your book’s plot?

**2. Characters – Some characters that experience this topic are:**

* Replace with the names of the characters in your book who are involved with your topic. How are they involved with the topic/how does the topic affect them?

**3. Learning – Some things I learned about my topic from reading my book are:**

* Replace with some point-form examples of information you learned from your book, or thought about because of your book

**4. Further Learning – Some questions I still have about my topic are:**

* Replace this text with five questions you have about this topic. Make sure these are questions that you ACTUALLY don’t know the answers to, and are interested in knowing. This project is designed to be an opportunity to learn (more) about something that interests you.

Part 2) Expository Research: The Reading

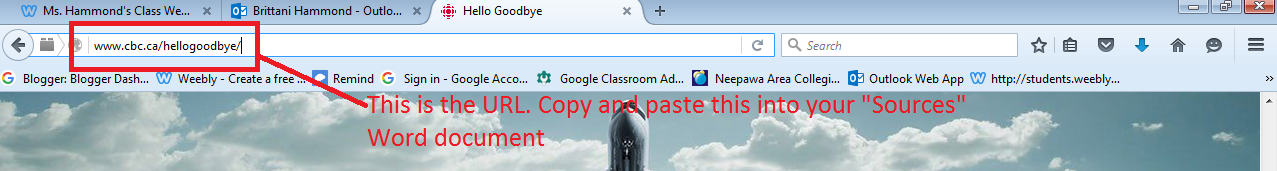
You will be using information from the internet to help you answer the “Further Learning” questions you came up with during Part 1. By information, I mean things you find interesting and would like to teach the class, in regards to your topic.

In order to support your expository content, you must cite quotes and paraphrase information from your online sources (make sure to record the URLS so you can find them later, and so that Ms. Hammond knows you didn’t just make your information up).

*NOTE: As you research each of your 5 questions from the “Further Learning” section in Part 2, you might have new questions. That’s great! Keep researching, and answering those questions, as well. The more information you gather, the more you have to choose from for your presentation.*

For each of your 5 “Further Learning” questions, you must include:

1. Answer – A factual and detailed response to the question
   * 1-2 sentences will definitely NOT cut it
   * Use text, visuals, videos, etc. to help fully answer your question
   * Record notes in point-form or paragraphs
2. Citation – The site name, article name, URL, author, and date of last update for each source you took your information from; you should have multiple sources for each question. You may keep track of this however you want – may I recommend a table?

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Here is an example:

Topic = Prep/Boarding Schools/Independent Novel: “Looking for Alaska”/Author: John Green

Question: Do we have prep schools in Canada?

I would include the following information in order to fully answer the previous question:

* A direct yes/no
* Where the prep schools are located
* Images of what a Canadian prep school looks like
* A graph that shows which province has the most vs. least prep schools Canada

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| **Site Name** | **Article Name** | **URL** | **Author** | **Last Update** |
| Our Kids: The Trusted Source | Boarding Schools in Canada | http://www.ourkids.net/canadian-boarding-schools.php | OurKids.net staff (specific author not listed) | Copyright 2017 |

Part 2) Expository: The Doing

**Question 1:** Replace this text with one of your “Further Learning” questions

* Replace with researched information that helps answer this question. Make sure to find the who, what, where, why, when and how, as well as any other interesting facts or visuals that help answer the question

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**Question 2:** Replace this text with one of your “Further Learning” questions

* Replace with researched information that helps answer this question. Make sure to find the who, what, where, why, when and how, as well as any other interesting facts or visuals that help answer the question

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**Question 3:** Replace this text with one of your “Further Learning” questions

* Replace with researched information that helps answer this question. Make sure to find the who, what, where, why, when and how, as well as any other interesting facts or visuals that help answer the question

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**Question 4:** Replace this text with one of your “Further Learning” questions

* Replace with researched information that helps answer this question. Make sure to find the who, what, where, why, when and how, as well as any other interesting facts or visuals that help answer the question

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**Question 5:** Replace this text with one of your “Further Learning” questions

* Replace with researched information that helps answer this question. Make sure to find the who, what, where, why, when and how, as well as any other interesting facts or visuals that help answer the question

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Part 3) Presentation: The Reading

You will combine the information you recorded in BOTH Part 1) Literary, and Part 2) Expository into a presentation, which you will share with the class. By presentation I mean speaking, writing and representing your content in a unique and engaging way.

In this part of your presentation, you must include:

1. Sections – Your entire presentation should be broken into two major parts – Literary and Expository. Start with the Literary, then transition into the expository.
2. Subtopics – Organize the Expository part of your presentation by turning each of your 5 questions into a subtopic (i.e. a subtitle)
3. Formatting – Make your content visually-appealing and easy to understand by using images, text, size, spacing, alignment, graphs, media, and colors that are suited to your writing variables
4. Speaking – You will have to present to the class, so make sure to rehearse! Feel free to write reminders of what to say on cue cards and bring them with you when you present.
5. Audience Engagement – You must include AT LEAST 1 activity that involves your audience in some way. This activity should be related to your topic, have a clear purpose, and be engaging!
   * Some examples: games, quizzes, polls, surveys, question-and-answer, exercises, skits
6. Attention to Time – Your presentation may be NO LONGER than 7 minutes (including your activity). Make sure you keep your content clear and concise – cut out unnecessary details!

Here is an example of “Subtopics”:

Topic = Prep/Boarding Schools/Independent Novel: “Looking for Alaska”/Author: John Green

Further Learning – What the book left me wondering about prep schools (5 questions)

* Do we have prep schools in Canada?
* How many prep schools are there in the world?
* Do prep schools produce better students than public schools?
* Do prep schools harm the relationship between parent and child?
* Is it affordable for the average family to send their kids to prep school?

5 Subtopics – Used to organize my presentation (based on my 5 “Further Learning” questions):

* Prep Schools Across Canada
* Prep Schools Across the World
* Prep Schools vs. Public Schools
* Prep Schools vs. Parent-Student Relationships
* The Cost of Prep Schools

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Part 3) Presentation: The Doing

**Presentation Format:** Replace this text with the format you will use (ex. Prezi, Glogster, Piktochart, ToonBoom, PowToon, Pixton, Video, Weebly, MindMeister, poster board, etc.)

**Further Learning Questions:**

* Replace this text by copying and pasting a Further Learning question here
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**Subtopics:**

* Replace this text by turning each question into a subtopic for your presentation
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**Audience Engagement Activity:** Replace this text with a description of the audience engagement activity you plan to include within your presentation

**Presentation Organizer:** Map your presentation out on the “Presentation Organizer” handout provided by Ms. Hammond during class time.

**Create Your Presentation!**

**Edit Your Presentation!**

**Rehearse (and Time) Your Presentation!**

**Edit Your Presentation!**

**Rehearse (and Time) Your Presentation!**

**Present Your Presentation!**