

Name: _____

8th Grade Academic Fair Calendar 2011 – 2012



***While you are certainly expected to work on this project at home, you will be given ample time in class to work on it as well.**

Wednesday, December 14, 2011: Topic Sign-up: You must have cleared your topic with Mr. Silvestri and signed up by this date.

Thursday, December 15, 2011: Project Proposal: Submit on paper the title of your paper and at minimum three essential questions (things you are interested in finding out about your topic). Include two sources that you have presently identified.

Wednesday, January 4, 2012: Bring in the minimum two (2) print resources. Students will be given some class time for note taking. Instruction for note-taking using Noodle will be taught during computer and library class.

Wednesday, January 11, 2012: Your preliminary outline is due. You will receive instruction about this in class.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012: You should have notes from at least two sources. These first set of twenty-five (25) note cards will be submitted on Noodle for a grade.

Monday, January 23, 2012: The second and final set of twenty-five (25) note cards should be added to Noodle. A total of fifty (50) note cards should be included on Noodle.

Monday, January 30, 2012: Revised outline for paper is due: proper outlining will be covered in English class.

Monday, February 13, 2012: Formal copy of the paper is due. See guidelines page for specific requirements.

Monday, February 27, 2012: The blueprint for your visual display is due. Include a diagram with labels or a description of your plans, a list of materials you will need and their sources, any special requirements (i.e. water, electricity, or other materials from the science room), approximate amount of space needed.

Monday, March 5, 2012: Optional revised paper is due. Students who choose to make significant changes to their research paper may submit a revised paper. The original draft must be included with the revised paper.

Monday, March 12, 2012: Set up the projects. Bring all materials—including a fresh, unmarked copy of your paper—that are needed for the display.

Monday – Thursday, March 12 – 15, 2012: Oral presentations of projects: You should prepare a 5-10 minute talk explaining your research and display. The presentation will account for one-third of your grade.

Thursday, March 15, 2012: Evening Open House: Parents are welcome to come and view all of the projects on display during a designated time. (Details to follow.)

See reverse for requirements.

Requirements for the 8th Grade Academic Fair Research Paper

CONTENTS: All 8th grade research papers must include the following elements. Each of these elements, including the exact format required, will be covered and reviewed in class. Additionally, students will be given class time to work on each aspect of the paper.

- Title Page
- Outline: Students will include a topic outline (a clean and revised copy of the outline handed in before the completion of the paper) with their papers.
- Report Text: The acceptable length of the paper is a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) pages for eighth graders. This is to include MLA-format in-text citations for every source listed on the Works Cited Page; we will discuss this further in class.
- Works Cited Page: This separate page must include MLA-format citations of all the sources utilized in the paper. Students will have in-class instruction on proper format and how to use Noodle Tools to generate this page.

Every element of this paper is to be completed to MLA standards as discussed in class. The guidelines are also available in the Sixth Edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* by Joseph Gibaldi. This resource is available at our GCS library. Mrs. Stewart will also post helpful MLA-related links and all Academic Fair handouts on Moodle.

SOURCES: A minimum of five sources is required for completion of the paper and must include:

- **Two (2) books or other print resources**
- **Three (3) database articles. Databases can be accessed through the Inside GCS webpage.**

Additional sources may be utilized. **While general knowledge encyclopedias, including Wikipedia, can be used to get a general idea of the topic and to generate a preliminary outline, they are not to be used as sources for this paper.** When in doubt, clear the source with Mr. Silvestri before using it.

The formal copy of the paper is the final draft. Students will have an opportunity to revise, but it is not required. If a revision is completed, the revision grade will be averaged with the original grade. A clean copy of the paper, with no marks, must be included in the visual display during Academic Fair Week.

