
Informational Writing: Research Paper- Generating Questions

Objective: Learn and practice key skills for informational research writing including generating research questions; selecting, using, and documenting sources correctly; applying hamburger paragraph structure; using proper formal voice including domain-specific vocabulary.

Assessment: 2-3 paragraph introduction to science fair project using key vocabulary and providing essential background information to understand and perform the experiment.

Assignment	Due Date	How to Turn It In	Google Classroom Assignment Name
Overview Article	Friday, Sept. 16	Copy and paste link into document on Google Classroom.	Article for Your Science Fair Project
Mini Research Questions (5-8)	Tuesday, Sept. 20	Back worksheet of this packet	N/A
Sources Packet Check-In (Should have at least 3 sources filled in at least half-way)	Monday, Sept. 26	Must be checked and initialed by Mrs. Murphy	N/A

Step One: What are you actually talking about?

- The first step in research is to make sure you know what you are really looking for. To start:
 - Read a general _____ or _____ article about the topic (this is the ONE time I would recommend Wikipedia!)
 - _____! Ask someone with more expertise about the topic in general
 - Jot down _____, _____, _____ or _____ that can be springboards for further research.

⇒ Look up a general article on your topic. Jot down 5-6 key ideas here:

STEP TWO: Generating Mini Research Questions

Directions: Using the key words from the page before, fill in the blanks for some of the questions below. After trying out many questions, rewrite (On the next page) your 5-8 mini research questions.

Question Word	Fill Your Keywords (or Variations on Your Keywords) into the Blanks	Possible Questions for Background Research
Why	Why does _____ happen? Why does _____ _____?	
How	How does _____ happen? How does _____ work? How does _____ detect _____? How does one measure _____? How do we use _____?	
Who	Who needs _____? Who discovered _____? Who invented _____?	
What	What causes _____ to increase (or decrease)? What is the composition of _____? What are the properties and characteristics of _____? What is the relationship between _____ and _____? What do we use _____ for?	
When	When does _____ cause _____? When was _____ discovered or invented?	
Where	Where does _____ occur? Where do we use _____?	

Mini Research Questions

Directions: Based on the chart on the previous page, choose 5-8 questions that need to be answered to best complete your project. Make sure they are the MOST important of all the questions you asked.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.
