



China – Research Project

Background information:

Over the next several weeks, we will be working on a research project about ancient China. This project is called the Guaranteed Research Experience (GRE). All 7th grade students complete a GRE in order to expose students to the essential research and writing skills needed to succeed in high school and beyond.

Your role:

You work for an educational software company that is developing an educational video game about the achievements of ancient China. The game will teach middle school students how the ancient Chinese made achievements in various areas.

Your tasks:

1. You will research achievements of ancient China in the library and take notes in your own words, being very careful to avoid plagiarism.
2. You will write a 5-paragraph proposal to an educational software company that includes background information and explains 3 specific ancient Chinese achievements to be included in the new educational software product.
3. You will design a poster the size of a piece of computer paper (8.5 by 11 inches) or the size of a video game box (5.25 by 7.5 inches) that could serve as a cover to the educational software game you are proposing. The cover should have images related to the achievements you focused on, and the images need to be properly cited in a webliography. You may create the poster electronically in a program such as Photoshop or Microsoft Word, or manually by neatly cutting and pasting the images.
4. You will write a “Works Cited” page in MLA format using your online Noodle Tool account.
5. You will submit post research reflections to the Bristow Library blog commenting on what you learned about the research process and the accomplishments of ancient China.
6. You will need to follow our timeline and due dates, working on the project during class time and homework time as needed.

The purpose of the GRE:

- To identify the research process as a valuable learning experience.
- To learn and practice skills that are essential for requirements in middle school, high school, and beyond: note taking, collecting data, documenting and summarizing data, drawing conclusions, and communicating results in writing.
- To utilize technology for research purposes.

Essential Questions:

- Why are skills such as note taking, collecting data, documenting and summarizing data, and drawing conclusions essential to producing a successful research paper?
- How is the research process an important part of life-long education?
- How does a research experience about important achievements of ancient China enable students to have a deeper understanding and appreciation of cultures other than our own?

Material Requirements:

Organization is key to success for this project. Each student is required to bring in

- A two pocket file folder (to keep all research materials in)
- Pen and pencil
- Flash drive (to save electronic information)

I have read this document describing the GRE. I understand that each student will be required to bring in the necessary materials and to complete the assignment and the reflection component.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Possible Research Topics:
Ancient Chinese achievements in a variety of areas

| Philosophy | Art/Literature | Architecture | Medicine | Science & Technology |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Confucianism | bronze vessels | the Great Wall of China | traditional herbs | paper |
| Daoism | jade ornaments | the Forbidden City | acupuncture | printing |
| Legalism | lacquer | Chinese gardens | vaccinations | abacas (math) |
| Buddhism | tomb sculpture | White Pagoda | moxibustion | weapons (crossbow) |
| Mohism | calligraphy | Temple of Heaven | | windmills |
| the tea ceremony | landscape painting | Ming Tombs | | lunar calendar |
| martial arts | poetry | Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor | | gunpowder |
| | porcelain | Qianling Mausoleum | | magnetic compass |
| | musical instruments (chimes, etc.) | Shenyang Imperial Palace | | wheelbarrow |
| | | Big Wild Goose Pagoda | | seismometer |
| | | Nanjing Ancient City Wall | | paper money |
| | | | | paddle wheel |
| | | | | silk |
| | | | | chain pump |
| | | | | kite |
| | | | | iron plow |
| | | | | drill |

Name: _____

MLA Works Cited Form for Nonfiction Book

Source Code:

Author(s)

First name Middle name Last name (or organization)

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

Title of Book

*** required**

Capitalize the first letter of important words in the title

City of publication

Publisher's name

Year of publication

Always provide publication info (city, publisher, year) if given.

(Attach additional forms as needed.)

Author(s)

| First name | Middle name | Last name (or organization) |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Specific page or article title

Capitalize the first letter of **important words** in the title

Name of Database

* required
Capitalize the first letter of **important words** in the name

Database publisher

Publication (or last revised) date

URL

Date you viewed it

* required

MLA Works Cited Form for Websites

Note: Bibliographic information may be located on the "About" or "Home" page

Source Code

First name Middle name Last name (or organization)

Author(s)

Specific page or article title

(capitalize the first letter of important words in the title)

Name of website

* required

Publisher or sponsor of the site

Publication or last revised date

URL

Date you viewed it

* required

Chinese Achievements

Notes

- All notes should be bullet lists
- NO complete sentences
- Take the time to use your own words

Research question:

Subtopic:

Source code:

Notes:

Research question:

Subtopic:

Source code:

Notes:

| |
|------------------------|
| Research question: |
| Subtopic: |
| Source code: Notes: |

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|------------------------|
| Research question: |
| Subtopic: |
| Source code: Notes: |

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|------------------------|
| Research question: |
| Subtopic: |
| Source code: Notes: |

How to write your ancient China research paper

I. Introduction: go from general to specific.

A. Get attention (1 – 2 sentences). Some possible techniques:

1. Ask a question
2. State a surprising fact
3. Sound effect
4. Anecdote (interesting story)

B. Provide background information (1 – 2 sentences).

1. Explain how ancient China had many achievements.
2. Explain purpose for writing (to propose topics for the video game).

C. Thesis statement (1 sentence).

1. Persuasively state why the three achievements you researched should be included in the video game.
2. Sample thesis starter: The video game should focus on _____ , _____ , and _____ as three of the greatest achievements of ancient China because _____ .

II. First body paragraph: explain why one of your topics should be included.

- A. Topic sentence (1 sentence). State why your 1st topic should be included in the video game.
- B. Explain at least three details or examples (1 – 2 sentences per example).
- C. Explain how your topic can be used creatively in the video game.
- D. Explain what the legacy of your topic is.
- E. Concluding sentence (1 sentence). Restate why your 1st topic should be included in the video game.

III. Second body paragraph: explain why another one of your topics should be included. (The directions are the same as the first body paragraph.)

IV. Third body paragraph: explain why another one of your topics should be included. (The directions are the same as the first body paragraph.)

V. Conclusion:

- A. Restate your thesis statement.
- B. Describe how China had many achievements.
- C. Ending thoughts/call to action:
 1. Wrap it up.
 2. Encourage them to make the video game as you proposed.

Name: _____ PERIOD : _____

Thesis Essay Graphic Outline

Introduction

I. Introduction: gets your reader's attention and gives historical context to your reader

Thesis:

- Takes a stand that others may dispute/argue
- Is a clear statement that requires proof or evidence

BODY paragraphs :
Demonstrates use of a **variety of sources**
Provides **specific facts and evidence from research** to support thesis
Support claims with: logical reasoning, **relevant** accurate data and evidence that **demonstrates understanding of the topic**

Reason #1

Topic Sentence:

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Evidence: | Evidence: | Evidence: |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|

Evidence can be a fact, example or quotation.

Analysis/Connections:

This is where you need to make connections between your evidence and the argument and then connect it all to your thesis.

Reason #2

Topic Sentence:

Evidence:

Evidence:

Evidence:

Remember that if you use someone else's words or ideas as evidence, you will need to cite it!

Analysis/Connections

Reason #3

Topic Sentence:

Evidence:

Evidence:

Evidence:

Analysis/Connections

Conclusion

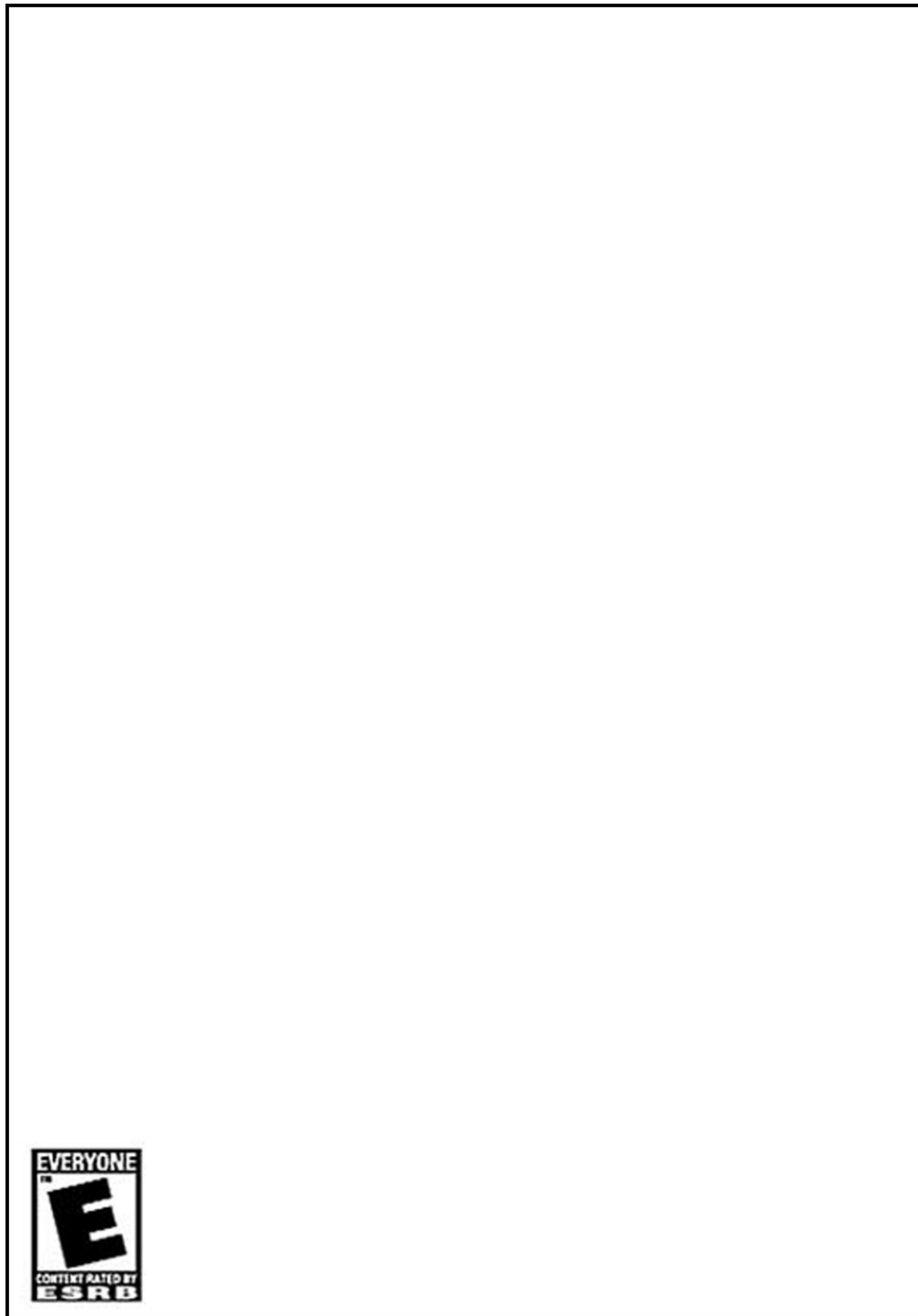
Include all of these in your conclusion

- Synthesize your ideas
- Restate your most powerful reasons
- Explain the overall importance of this topic in history

Thesis:

Reasons:

Ending thoughts:



- You may choose to make this electronically or manually. Review the example on the blog.
- Remember to cite the sources of your images in a webliography.

China Research Project Rubric

| <u>Category</u> | <u>Excellent - Good</u> | <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>Needs Improvement</u> |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Student came prepared for class, used class time well, and completed homework and class assignments. | 15 - 12 | 11 | 10 - 0 |
| Student accurately completed notes without plagiarizing. | 15 - 12 | 11 | 10 - 0 |
| Student accurately completed a typed "Works Cited" page in MLA format, using Noodle Tools. A minimum of 3 sources were used: 2 print and 1 electronic. | 10 - 8 | 7 | 6 - 0 |
| The paper is 5 paragraphs in length; the information is very organized with introductory statement, 3 supporting examples, and a conclusion which ties together all information. | 25 - 20 | 19 - 18 | 17 - 0 |
| Mechanics: There are no grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. The paper is typed in 12 point, Times New Roman font, and it is double-spaced. | 15 - 12 | 11 | 10 - 0 |
| The poster includes images of the three areas of focus, is visually appealing, and is neatly presented. Images are properly cited in a webliography. | 15 - 12 | 11 | 10 - 0 |
| Student submitted a thoughtful and well written blog reflection comment on the research process and the accomplishments of ancient China. | 5-4 | | 3 - 0 |
| Total points = 100 | | | |