

INQUIRY-BASED SEMESTER PROJECT



- ☐ Choose an essential question and an initial book you will read to learn more about varying perspectives on this question.
- ☐ While reading, perhaps pausing every chapter or at various intervals throughout the book, consider various ways to annotate and respond to your reading. Record ideas such as:
 - o Responses to appeals and writing techniques this author is using
 - o Claims and supporting grounds and data this author is using
 - o Ways that this writing is molding, changing, shaping, and/or challenging your previously held views on the subject
- ☐ Examine a variety of other current sources to keep yourself up-to-date on the subject and how it applies to our current S.P.E.E.C. world. Be sure to record these sources so you can refer to them later.
- ☐ Consider the historical events that are contributing factors/causes associated with problems or complications related to this subject. Research these events or circumstances in a variety of sources, including possibly a book source. Be sure to record these sources so you can refer to them later.
- ☐ Think about ways that this topic and essential questions are examined in artistic fields, such as film/television, fictional works (books, poetry, etc.), documentaries and nonfiction series, art, music, etc. Research and find a few of these sources to study additionally and feed into your evolving investigation and views on the subject.
- ☐ Bear in mind that this project will end with you telling others about what you have learned about this subject in response to your essential question. Frame all your research and investigatory measures with this end intention in mind!

WEEKLY FOCUSES FOR THIS PROJECT

Week 1: Introduction to the project—decide upon your essential question and course of study
(January 20-24)

Week 2: Plan of action—Research the topic initially, complete project proposal to narrow your focus, and find and acquire the right book to read as “book one” and begin reading
(January 27- January 31)

Week 3: While reading... While reading “book one,” perhaps pause every chapter or at various intervals throughout the book, consider various ways to annotate and respond to your reading.
(February 3-7)

Record ideas such as:

- o Responses to appeals and writing techniques this author is using
- o Claims and supporting grounds and data this author is using
- o Ways that this writing is molding, changing, shaping, and/or challenging your previously held views on the subject

Week 4: Author Credibility—research the credibility of the author(s) of book one, and learn more about his/her motives in writing this book and if this book is part of a larger continuing body of research or part of a larger story; consider how what you learn about his/her credibility affects your reading interpretations
(February 10-14)

Week 5: Balancing perspectives & Essential question connections —consider a view or claim set forth by this author, or an instance within the book that sparks your interest to further research. Spend some time researching this view or claim and rounding out your view of the subject with other sources; consider the ways that your perspectives on the essential question are evolving and changing based on your reading and additional research; list a few topics that you will research or have questions about due to this reading
(February 18-21)

Week 6: Source-to-Source connections—look at the sources used by the author of the book, and go to a few of these sources for additional data and info. to add to your views of the subject; you may also want to spend time researching the author and more about his/her credibility
(February 24-February 28)

****BOOK ONE DUE BY THURSDAY, MARCH 12****

Week 7: Responding to Reading—respond to the various ways that this book and the experiences or claims of this author have influenced, shaped, and/or challenged your views on this subject; decide upon what new questions you are seeking answers to, and look for new sources that will help you answer these questions (if you have not chosen book two yet, be sure to do so at this point)
(March 2-6)

Week 8: While reading... While reading “book two,” perhaps pausing every chapter or at various intervals throughout the book, consider various ways to annotate and respond to your reading.
(March 9-13)

Record ideas such as:

- o Responses to appeals and writing techniques this author is using
- o Claims and supporting grounds and data this author is using
- o Ways that this writing is molding, changing, shaping, and/or challenging your previously held views on the subject

Week 9: Reading comparisons—Spend time comparing the reading you did in book one with the new perspectives you are developing while reading book two; how do the views/claims within these books complement and/or contradict one another? How do these reading experiences compare in terms of the authors’ writing styles?
(March 16-20)

Week 10: Hopes and Predictions—record some of the ideas/info. you are hoping to learn more about through reading this second book, and set forth a plan for yourself to finish this book by the end of spring break and/or continue to research over spring break
(March 23-27)

Week 11: Responding to Reading—respond to the various ways that this “book two” and the experiences or claims of this author have influenced, deepened, shaped, and/or challenged your views on this subject; decide upon what new questions you are seeking answers to, and look for new sources that will help you answer these questions (March 30- April 12)

****BOOK TWO & END RESPONSE DUE BY THE END OF SPRING BREAK****

Week 12: Data Swim & Scholarly Research—spend some time immersing yourself in research of your topic, looking for various connecting threads to follow and research in this field; record the various new avenues to follow with future research intentions; follow-up and respond to the research ideas, looking for ways that the current sources that you are reading connect to the new perspectives you are developing; use databases such as mel.org and <https://scholar.google.com/> to expound upon your research (April 13-17)

Week 13: Artistic Representations—research ways that this essential question has been studied through artistic expression such as film/television, fictional works (books, poetry, etc.), documentaries

and nonfiction series, art, music, etc.; choose a few of these sources to study additionally and feed into your evolving investigation and views on the subject (April 20-24)

Week 14: Tying it Together—spend time mapping out how the research you have collected thus far connects and blends together to help organize your ideas in response to your essential question (April 27-May 1)

Week 15: Reflections & Course Connections—take stock of the various ways that this inquiry process and what you have learned affect your perceptions: What is one major assertion or claim that you would argue in response to your essential question? How do at least three of the sources, including both your books, fit together to inform and round out your perspectives on this topic? What is one creative rhetorical technique that you plan to use when you present your findings to others? (May 4-8)

Week 16: Independent Research—continue to round out and gather additional research you would like to round out your topic (May 11-15)

~~*AP LANG TEST WED., MAY 13th morning 7:30-11:30am~~

Week 17: Presentation Planning (May 18-22)

- o **Power of Three**—spend some time learning about elements of effective presentations to help plan out how you will deliver your thoughts about this essential question and topic in an organized manner
- o **Session Description**—create a description of what you will present in your session
- o **Conference Choices**—choose the sessions you are most interested in attending, based on topics
- o **Practice Makes Progress**—practice your presentation in small groups and receive feedback; practice on two different days
- o **Visual interest and Audience Engagement**—plan out a visual or two (non-technology) to use in your pres. and an interactive method you will use to engage your audience
- o ~~PRESENTATION DAY ON FRIDAY, MAY 22~~