**Wayne School of Engineering: iSearch**

*The world’s most precious resource is the persistent and passionate human mind.*

*Peter Diamandis*

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**Objectives:**

1. That you use inquiry and research to discover pathways to careers that matter to you.
2. That you find and document peer-reviewed sources.
3. That you are able to present a convincing, reasonable, informed, and clear investigation into your topic.
4. That you grow and develop your writing style, even as you synthesize skills from earlier writing assignments into research paper writing.
5. That you become a community of scholars curious and equipped with both the skills and integrity to research any idea at any time.

There is a reason why the words quest and question have the same root word. Research is a journey of discovery, often guided by a series of questions, but allowing for accidental and surprising moments of insight as well. What fortunate accidents might you find? Breaking the paper into focus areas—trying on questions that matter to you, exploring and expanding the edge of knowledge, publication, and reflection—provides balance for the skills required to search for the truth. I am interested in the possible innovative angles you take on your topic, the depth of your thought, the creativity of your expression, the clarity of your writing, and the accuracy of your documentation.

**Schedule**

**Section 1: Trying on Questions That Matter to You**

* Finding the question and your thesis
* Split-page notes
* Strengthening your language
* Citing your source in the text and giving credit
* Two page comparison and contrast of two sources and integrating the scholars into your voice, your search.
* Thinking map

**2 page explication of sources:**

**Section 2: Exploring and Expanding the Edge of Knowledge**

* Tracing and evaluating the best sources
* Interviewing an expert
* Gathering through split note taking
* Citing sources accurately
* Organization
* Report on progress
* They Say, I Say: the use of templates
* Questions to ask at this midpoint: How does what I think link to what the scholars say? What do I do when I find a source who disagrees with my thesis?

**6 split-page notes (with sources attached) due:**

**Section 3: Publication and Reflection: Harmonizing Disparate Voices**

* The Dangers of Laryngitis (or how to avoid the dangers of losing your voice after you invite in the experts.)
* Flashlights into the story
* Writing the paper
* Revising Workshop
* Source Check

**Research Paper completed for revising workshop:**

**Literary Research Paper, with all supplementary sources due:**

**Papers are due whether you are present or not.**

**Format:**

* Length: 7-8 pages, double-space (not including Works Cited page)
* 12 point font *Times New Roman*
* 8 ½ by 11’’ paper
* All margins must be 1 inch

**Presentation:**

* No cover sheet or folder
* On the upper left-hand corner:

1. Your name
2. Course
3. Mrs. Daly
4. Date

* Put your name and page number on the upper right-hand corner of each page except the first page.
* Give your paper an interesting, catchy title. A good title gives some indication of the paper’s content and draws interest. Center your title on the first page above the beginning of your introductory paragraph.
* Staple or clip your paper together.

**Proofread your paper carefully for spelling, typographical, and grammatical errors, but most importantly check your documentation.**

**Sources:**

Six to eight quality sources are necessary. Use sources that have peer review, because some authorities are better than others, and some “sources” are not authorities at all. Bruce Ballenger in *The Curious Researcher* outlines a hierarchy of source material from the least to the most authoritative.

General Knowledge Less Authoritative

General Knowledge

General-Interest Magazines, Newspapers

Specialized Magazines

Trade Books

Government Documents

Academic Journals

Scholarly Books

Specialized Knowledge More Authoritative

**The best way to conquer this project is to keep up with the schedule. If you are falling behind or are struggling with it, come talk to me right away. Remember that I have third period planning and that we can set up times before or after school to work together as well.**

**\*I accept papers early!**

**REMINDER: Goals of the WSE Senior Project**

**Your project must get you involved in all of the following…**

* exploring a passion that connects to your future
* applying academic learning to a vocational, academic, or community interest
* networking in the community outside of school (mentors, agencies, businesses)
* developing personal initiative, intrinsic motivation, and resourcefulness
* extending your learning in a way that classroom instruction cannot
* serving the community (optional)