*The House of the Scorpion*

Research Project

**Rough Draft Due**: May 23

**Final Draft Due**: May 26

**Presentations Begin**: May 26

**Assignment**: You will choose a topic to research. Your topic may be on a controversial issue. The purpose of this project is to inform yourself, as well as your classmates, about the topic you’ve chosen. You will complete the following tasks during this assignment: research topic; write a newspaper article, which clearly details your findings; as well as present your information to the class in a 3-5 minute presentation.

**Topics**: You may choose any topic you like. You must have a parent/guardian’s permission to research your topic before you begin to investigate the matter. Some topic ideas are listed for you below.

* Cloning
* Stem Cell Research
* Organ transplants
* Legalization of Marijuana
* Immigration laws for the United States
* Global warming caused by human activity
* Genetically engineered meat/food
* Designer babies
* Genetically altering organisms
* DNA mapping
* Animal testing for human benefit

**Newspaper Article**: You will write a newspaper article, which details the information you discover as you research your topic. This project asks you to develop a story that relates to the topic you’ve chosen. Be sure to include relevant information that accurately describes your subject. Be creative as you write! Your article must be formatted in one of the templates provided in the attached [document](https://drive.google.com/a/beachwoodschools.org/templates?type=docs&q=newspaper&sort=user&view=public&urp=https://docs.google.com/templates?type%3Ddocs%26q%3Dnews&pli=1&ddrp=1).

**Presentation**: You will present your article orally in front of the class in roughly 3-5 minutes. You do not need to read your article verbatim; however, you are asked to clearly identify the information presented within it.

*The House of the Scorpion*

Research Project Rubric

**Research**

5 Sources \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/5

At least 15 notecards \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10

**Newspaper Article** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/50

* Introduces the topic and orients the reader (7-10 sentences); Clearly states your information (10)
* Discusses topic in full detail
* At least three pieces of quoted information present
* Stays consistent throughout the article
* Addresses the other side, but continues to defend stance
* Information is accurate and organized
* Broadly summarizes information
* Gives a sense of closure to your research
* At least two images included
* Article is in a provided template

**Work Cited** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10

* 5 sources minimum (5)
* Alphabetized (1)
* Punctuated correctly (4)

**Writing** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20

* Correct spelling (3)
* Correct punctuation (3)
* Ideas flow logically and are cohesive; effective use of transitions (10)
* Precise diction (2)
* Varied sentence structure (2)

**Presentation** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/25

* Clearly introduce topic; clearly provide your stance on the issue; provide concluding statements
* Organize evidence logically; demonstrate an understanding of the topic
* Speaking skills: use appropriate eye contact, volume, clear pronunciation

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/120