*The House of the Scorpion*

Research Project

**Rough Draft Due**: May 9

**Final Draft Due**: May 24

**Presentations Begin**: May 24

**Assignment**: You will choose a topic to research. Your topic may be on a controversial issue. The purpose of this project is to persuade your classmates on the stance you’ve taken in regards to your topic. You will complete the following tasks during this assignment: research topic; write a 2-3 page paper, which clearly details your findings; as well as present your information to the class in a 3-5 minute presentation. Your essay and presentation must clearly state the topic you’ve chosen.

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

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

**Essay**: You will write a persuasive essay that will sway you’re your reader to believe in your topic. Your essay must be 2-3 pages in length, and follow MLA documentation format (i.e: Times New Roman, 12 pt font, etc.). Any information taken from an outside source must be cited correctly.

**Presentation**: You will present your research orally in front of the class in roughly 3-5 minutes. You must use a multimedia resource to enhance your presentation. The format is your choice. Any of the following are acceptable options:

* Glogster
* iMovie
* Prezi
* ThingLink
* Infographics
* PowerPoint

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Research Project Rubric

**Research**

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

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

**Essay**

MLA Format \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10

* Title Page, spacing, citations, works cited, font, page numbers

**Introduction Paragraph** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10

* Introduces the topic and orients the reader (7-10 sentences); Controversial Topics: Clearly states your stance(10)
* Ends with a thesis statement (5)

**Body Paragraphs** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/30

* Discusses topic in full detail
* At least three pieces of quoted information present
* Stays consistent throughout the paragraphs
* Controversial Topics: Addresses the other side, but continues to defend stance
* Information is accurate and organized

**Concluding Paragraphs** ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10

* Broadly summarizes information
* Gives a sense of closure to your research

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

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

**Writing** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/30

* Correct spelling (5)
* Correct punctuation (5)
* Ideas flow logically and are cohesive; effective use of transitions (10)
* Precise diction (5)
* Varied sentence structure (5)

**Visual** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/15

* Clarifies claims and findings; emphasizes salient points
* Information in display enhances the presentation
* Eye-catching and easy to read
* Visually appealing

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

* Clearly introduce topic; Controversial topics: 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** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/150