*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 inform yourself, as well as your classmates, about the topic you’ve chosen; however, if you’ve chosen a controversial issue, you must persuade your classmates to understand and believe in your argument. 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 an informative essay, which details the information you discover as you research 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** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/35

* 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