Components of the I-Search Paper

There are six distinct components to the I-Search paper. This section will take you through the six parts. If you read through this and start writing as it guides you, the process will be a cinch. It even tells you how long each section should be in order to meet the length requirement. Note all the questions – They will give you lots of ideas. *Size 12 font, double spaced, Times New Roman or Calibri!*

**Part 1 – Cover Page (Page 1)**

This page needs to have the following information: Your Name, Hour, Date, Topic and Essential Question.

(2 points each.)

**Part 2 – Introduction (Page 2)**

In this section, you will probably not cite any research, as it is the introduction to your actual work. However, you might refer to particular sources that “hooked” you in terms of interest or from which you have gained what knowledge you already have. *This section could be several paragraphs long* and provide the reader with a clear sense of why you’re researching your topic, how it relates to creating your product, what you already know, and what you hope to find out.

**Part 3 - Applying Research/Supporting Ideas (Page 3 – 5)**

**What I Have Learned in Completing the Product/Search Results?**

This section finally allows you to focus on what you have learned as a result of completing your product . . .

- What findings or conclusions have you arrived at?
- Use the sources to put information you found into your own words.
- What sources have you used to come to these conclusions?

You need to be sure to cite your sources here! Be careful to connect what you have learned to the question(s) you posed in the first section of your paper. You might use comparison/contrast, pro/con, cause/effect, or sequencing as formats to demonstrate your analysis.

- After doing the product, I discovered that . . .
- I was correct in thinking that . . .
- I was confused or mistaken about . . .

Be certain to use MLA documentation in this section and cite your sources correctly.

Direct quotes must *ALWAYS* be in quotation marks.

You will use a minimum of three sources. Since this section focuses on what you’ve learned, you will generally need about three citations per page or one per paragraph. Personal interviews and surveys DO count as sources.

**Part 3: Applying Research/Supporting Ideas (Page 3 – 5)**

**This is probably the longest section of your paper – 3 to 5 pages in length. Length for this section will be several paragraphs.**

What I found out/What This Means to Me/My Growth

This section provides the opportunity for you to reflect on how you have developed during the process. You should personalize your new learning and explain how it impacts your thinking on the topic. Draw conclusions
from what you have discovered and put your sub-questions and answers in. You will write in the first person what you found out about your topic and interpretations and opinions.

The following statements may help guide your thinking:

- What I now know that I didn’t know before includes...
- The findings that mean the most to me are...
- What I’ve learned will affect me and my project by...
- As a result of this research, I’ve decided to...
- This raised a couple more questions...
- This made me think of another question...

Part 4: Reflection (Page 6)

This is a half-page reflection discussion what was learned, what wished more was learned about, and future questions that were raised regarding this topic.

Part 5: References (Page 7)

You will need to cite your sources in two ways. First, you will need to properly cite sources throughout your paper. Also, it is essential that you include a properly formatted (MLA Style) Works Cited page at the end of your paper. You will need to carefully document ALL sources you use throughout your I-Search process in order to complete this task correctly. From day one, you need to keep a list going of all Internet sites, all reference materials, all people you interview, and any other media sources that you use. You should do using the “Sources I have Used” pages. Keep these in your folder.

There are several online sources that may help you, one of which is the Write Source site:

- [http://www.thewritesource.com/mla.htm](http://www.thewritesource.com/mla.htm)
- [www.easybib.com](http://www.easybib.com)
- [http://citationmachine.net](http://citationmachine.net)

There are several other MLA websites, so a GOOGLE search will help.

Helpful Reminders:

- EDITING IS CRUCIAL: Do not rely entirely on Spell Check! Read and re-read your work for correct spelling, punctuation, tense, word choice, and sentence fluency. Have others read your paper to make suggestions or corrections. Reading it aloud is the BEST way to catch many of your punctuation and sentence fluency problems.
- DO NOT wait until the last minute!
- Keep an ACCURATE LOG going of your research. If you don’t do this, you will find it virtually impossible to complete the second section of the paper.
- If you get stuck, remember the paper’s ultimate purpose: To tell the story of the research that you did to create your product.

Part 6: Printed Sources

These are the (at least) three sources that were printed out to highlight information about the topic of choice. These will be attached to the end of the paper. **At least one of these sources MUST be from the databases that Mrs. Beggs showed you.** (i.e: RBCCLI0)