**Figuring out the Inquiry Process Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Inquiry Paper – Grade 12**

**Step one: Planning**

Skills & Strategies

* Identify a topic area for inquiry
* Identify possible information sources
* Identify audience and presentation format
* Establish evaluation criteria
* Outline a plan for inquiry

Initial piece of inspiration: Ted Talk – Sir Ken Robinson – How Schools Kill Creativity.

Give students plenty of post-it notes to write one question per post-it in a short period of time – maybe 10 minutes.

Ask students to post their question on the wall, under two headings: Googleable and NonGoogleable.

Explore the rich NonGoogleable questions as the basis of a rich project.

Opinionairre/Survey – identify whether they Agree or Disagree with each statement. Then choose one statement they feel particularly strong about and write a brief comment about what in their experience of the world leads them to feel that way.

Skills and Strategies

* Evaluate the product
* Evaluate the inquiry process and inquiry plan
* Review and revise personal inquiry model
* Transfer learning to new situations/beyond school

1. Brainstorm some BIG Questions. Let’s try and think of at least twenty.
2. Read the difference between an inquiry/research report and an essay
3. Read the formatting guidelines
4. Think about what YOU want to write about. What interests you?
5. Read the Non Fiction handout
6. Fill out the KWL chart
7. Take a look at the pre writing, writing, after writing stages

**Differences between an inquiry/research report and an essay**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Report** | **Essay** |
| Reports are factual, formal and structured pieces.  Includes a title page, table of contents, sub headings and a page for sources.  The aim of a report is to present facts and make recommendations as well as analyze logically, make proposals, offer solutions or call to action.  Reports give information rather than an argument.  Structure often includes graphics, charts and illustrations; bullet points and/or numbering.  Needs to be objective rather than persuasive. | An essay allows the writer to call upon his or her own experiences and knowledge.  It requires a degree of opinion which is built upon a foundation of knowledge and fact.  Requires research to be used to prove a credible opinion.  Fluency is essential to carry the main ideas with support.  Structure includes an introduction with a thesis statement, body paragraphs and a conclusion. Topic/transitional sentences act as the “sub headings” of a report.  No title page, headings, bullets, graphics or charts.  Should establish a proposition (thesis) |

**Format Guidelines**

Title

Name Teacher

Date

1. Title Page: Title (not underlined), name, teacher’s name, date.

2. Table of Contents: A separate page listing each category or subtopic with an

accompanying page number.

3. Structure: A report has a logical order that includes an introduction with a central question

or focus on the topic, a body with headings, paragraphs, graphics, and a conclusion that

reviews the findings and offers possible insights or judgments.

4. Headings: A report requires headings stating the main topic of each section.

5. Graphics, illustrations, charts or other text features are often used in reports to present

findings.

6. Formal language and voice is required. No abbreviations or contractions; no slang.

7. Sources must be documented within the report in MLA format and in a Works Cited page at

the end. Failure to reference another person’s ideas is plagiarism. (See example of Works

Cited on attached sheet)

8. Refer back to Nelson Literacy text p. 86 (student book 10b) or

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> for more information on format guidelines, MLA

referencing and documentation.

9. Refer to rubric often for the criteria and expectations.

**Reading Non fiction**

There are two main types of prose writing:

1. Fiction: made up; not true; fictitious, i.e. short stories, novels,

movies

2. Non-Fiction: true; based on facts; true events i.e. news articles,

reports, essays

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN READING NON-FICTION

1. What is the main idea? What are the main points?
2. Is the information accurate, believable? What details lead you to feel this way?
3. Is the information based on fact or opinion? How do you know?
4. Is the treatment (of the topic) balanced or biased (slanted in some way)? How?
5. What classification would this selection fall under (Chronological, generalization, episode, description, concept/definition, comparison/contrast, process/cause and effect)?
6. Is there anything the selection did not address? If so, what?
7. Is this a credible piece of writing? Why or why not?

Planning Sheet (KWL)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| What I know | Definition and explanation of topic | Explanations, examples, stories, details | Possible theories | Location and/or history | Personal opinion or reaction |
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***Prewriting***

What is my purpose or message? What is my topic?

What is my purpose for writing? Who is my audience?

Am I knowledgeable about the topic? Do I need to do further research?

Is my topic narrow and manageable? What is my main idea/message?

What are my supporting details and examples? What form or genre of writing will help me achieve

my purpose and reach my audience?

***Drafting***

Do I have enough information?

Did I organize my details and examples?

Would a graphic organizer help me better organize my ideas?

Did I include only important or interesting details? Did I use authentic dialogue?

Did I use elements of style such as flashbacks?

***Revising***

Is my main idea/message clear? Did I keep my main idea focused? Did I make it interesting?

***Editing***

Is it as error-free as possible for me? Is it readable?

Did I get help with editing? (dictionary, peers)