

**Sanderson High School
Graduation Project**

Research Paper Organizer – Essential Question - 10th Grade

In the 10th grade, working with your English teacher, you will begin thinking about the essential question for your Graduation Project. You will keep this organizer as a record for further work during your junior year.

Name: _____ Date: _____

10th Grade English Teacher (print name): _____

Approval Signature: _____

Some resources to help you get organized:

BIG6 website <http://www.big6.com/kids/index.htm> (How to find, use, and evaluate information)

Writing Lab at Purdue University <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> (Writing examples and MLA formats)

BIG6 #1 Task Definition

Determine a purpose and need for information.

You need to move beyond reciting facts or presenting other people's ideas to the point where you have developed your own investigation of a problem, issue, or question of concern. To do this, you must develop an essential question.

BIG6 Pre-Search Strategies to Develop Your Essential Question, also called the Thesis Statement

- Think about what is interesting to you. Spend some time on this because you will be spending A LOT of time on the essential question as you develop your project.
- Browse books and search subscription databases, reading about topics you are considering.
- Talk to your parents, teachers, and friends about topics of interest.
- Be specific with your essential question. Don't try to cover too broad a subject area.
- Be prepared to develop several drafts of the essential question. A graduation project is setup for failure if the essential question is not fully developed.
- Think about how you could develop a project to investigate or support your essential question.

Examples

- What plan could you develop that would reduce your likelihood of developing cancer?
- What impact did Walt Disney and his work have on modern day animation?
- Was the D-Day invasion really necessary to bring an end to World War II?
- Is it acceptable to clone human beings?
- What invention of the 20th century had the greatest impact? Why?
- Develop an outline of three strategies to reduce the impact of zebra mussels on the Great Lakes ecosystem.
- How has the development of the American automobile impacted American buying habits?
- What invention of the 20th century has had the biggest impact? How?
- What healthy habits are necessary to become an *elite* athlete?

	First Draft of Essential Question	Second Draft of Essential Question	Possible Project Ideas
EXAMPLE: Area of interest: <i>Video games</i>	<i>Do most people that play video games do good or bad in school?</i>	<i>How does playing video games affect the academic performance of the person playing them?</i>	<i>Take a survey of gamers and how much time they spend playing and/or doing homework/studying, and analyze results</i> <i>Design and teach a lesson plan for middle school kids that uses a popular video game to teach students about a school subject.</i>
First area of interest:			
Second area of interest:			
Third area of interest:			