

PACE 8 PROMPT and OVERVIEW 2007-2008

Topic: Preparing for a Career

BACKGROUND:

In the 21st Century, we have a large number of career options available. Choosing a meaningful career requires careful research and planning. Because many careers require a set of skills that are taught in high school or earlier, it is important to begin that careful planning and research now.

PROMPT:

Research a career that interests you. Using evidence and examples found in your research, describe your career choice. Research about the career *may* include information on the following: the education and training needed to prepare for the career including classes one can take in high school and any required post-secondary training and/or education, the day-to-day duties and responsibilities of the career, salary information, employment outlook for the career, and even why the career is interesting to you.

Write a research paper about your career and present your findings to a panel of teachers and community members.

PURPOSE:

This assessment will challenge students to:

- Research, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information
- Present researched information in writing to reflect comprehension, analysis, persuasion, and evaluation skills
- Create a relevant visual display of data including graphs, tables, and/or charts; graphs are required
- Connect skills learned in Language Arts and Math to create an integrated unit of study
- Apply communication and technical skills to create a presentation given before a panel of evaluators

REQUIREMENTS:

- Completed in school
- Individual effort
- Multi-disciplinary
- Uses technology appropriately (technology is used as the medium not as the message)
- Includes research, writing, creating a visual component, and presenting the entire project
- Include original writing—avoids plagiarism

TIME OF YEAR: The assessment pieces of PACE 8 must be completed during 3rd quarter

**SEE RUBRICS FOR SPECIFIC GRADING CRITERIA OF EACH
COMPONENT DESCRIBED BELOW**

RESEARCH:

Investigate a minimum of five sources with a variety of source types.

- Both computer and library shelf resources should be accessed
 - Web pages may be accessed if they are reliable and pertinent to the topic
- A minimum of 30 note cards is required
- Notes should reflect skill in using solid note-taking format (summaries, paraphrases, graphic organizers, outlines)
- Interviews are optional
- Research will be evaluated based on the above criteria using a rubric and a checklist

WRITING:

This will be a three part piece of expository writing that meets the standard for the 6 Traits of Writing:

- Introduction
- Body
- Conclusion

The actual writing of the research paper will be completed in the English class. The paper will be keyboarded at school.

The research paper will be 3-5 pages long, not including the cover sheet and the Works Cited page.

The paper should use standard MLA format:

- 12 pt. font
- Times New Roman
- 1" margins
- Double-spaced
- Cover sheet (optional)
- Page numbers with correct heading
- MLA format for citing source information
 - Internal citation for inside the paper
 - Works Cited page at the end of the paper

GRAPH COMPONENT REQUIREMENTS:

- Create a minimum of two graphs
- Graph-able information is gathered and correctly applied to self-created graphs
- Graphs are labeled and include a key if appropriate
- Graphs are proportionate
- Graphs are neat and easy to read

VISUAL COMPONENT:

The purpose of the visual component is to enhance the presentation, not to stand alone.

The visual component

- Is put on poster board and displayed during the presentation
- Must contain graphs
- Must be used to support the oral presentation
- Is graded as a component of the oral presentation

ORAL PRESENTATION:

The purpose of the oral presentation is to verbally show understanding, analysis, and evaluation of information related to career researched.

- Expected length is a 3-6 minute speech plus 1 minute for questions
- Presentation should not be read, but minimal note cards may be used during the presentation
- Students refer to their visual and use it to support the presentation
- Includes a clear introduction and conclusion
- Students are expected to dress appropriately for presentations

PACE 8 Grading Points and Weights

Created 2006-2007

Research

- 100 points total
 - 80 points on research process checklist
 - 10 points total as a combined grade on one sample print source card and one non-print source card
 - 10 points on one sample note card
- 20% of total 3rd quarter English 8 grade

Paper

- 100 points total
- 20% of total 3rd or 4th quarter English 8 grade

Oral

- 100 points total
- 5% of total 3rd or 4th quarter English 8 grade
- The visual is part of the oral presentation, but it is not a separate grade

Graph

- Graph is part of the 3rd quarter math grade
 - 5% for Algebra and Geometry students
 - 10% for Pre-Algebra students