

Final Project —important dates

Library Research Session: Thursday, **April 14th***
Decide your Project and Topic: Wednesday, **April 13th -April 22nd**
Project Drafts and Discoveries: Tuesday, **April 26th**
Project Presentations: Thursday, **April 28th**
Tuesday, **May 2nd** (11-12:15 & 7:30-9:30)
Thursday, **May 5th**

Presentations: Each student will present his/her work to our class in a 10-minute presentation. An annotated research bibliography (MLA) will be due on the day of presentation. Each bibliography will contain at least four sources. Some of these may be traditional research sources; others may include interviews, personal letters, and personal diaries.

Conferences: You will meet with Mrs. Bertolini, and/or Emma or Molly or Jessie, and/or research librarian Joy Pile, and/or Tech. specialist Mack Roark to get writing and/or research and/or technology advice on your project before your presentation date.

Project Options
<p>1. Standard Research Paper (4-5 pages) In this paper, you should discuss a particular kind of loss: death, divorce, addiction, end of personal relationship, illness, etc. You will form your own thesis statement that incorporates evidence from at least four sources. Make sure to carefully focus your research topic.</p>
<p>2. Creative Writing (4-5 pages) You will write a short story, one-act play or a series of poems that reflect a particular kind of loss. You will research examples and effects of this loss so that your creative work accurately reflects realistic behavior and consequences.</p>
<p>3. Multimedia Presentation Using film, digital story telling (i-movie, premiere, final cut), a personal weblog, a power point presentation, or a graphic novel combine words, and art, video, photos and/or music to present the effects of a loss or to memorialize a loss.</p>
<p>4. Other Options Do you have an idea for this project not mentioned above? Discuss with Mrs. B. One year, a student did a performance art piece. Another year, a student made a painting with words that commemorated the life of a family member.</p>

Getting Started

Step #1: Picking Your Topic

- Brainstorm at least two topics and consider the type of project you will do.
- Post possible topics on Sakai by midnight, **Wednesday, April 13th.**
- On **Thursday, April 14th**, you will have class with Joy Pile, who will give you research tips.
- Firm up your topic and project between **April 13th and April 22nd at the latest.**

Step #2: Doing and Presenting Your Research

- Research and take notes on your topic.
- Prepare a three to four--minute report for the class sharing your research on **Thursday, April 26.**
- See Mrs. B., tutors, or Joy Pile during late April to discuss the progress of your project.

Prepare your annotated bibliography:

<http://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/skill28.htm> - what

Use MLA citations: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Step #3: Showtime

Be ready to present your project and annotated bibliography on **Thursday, April 28-Thursday, May 5.**

Tips for Talks

Speak clearly.

Speak loudly enough to be heard everywhere in the room.

Rehearse your talk (and time yourself).

Keep within your time limit.

Make eye contact whenever possible.

Begin and end decisively.

Move decisively or not at all. Maintain good posture.

Take a slow deep breath or two before speaking.

Organize your talk well, but don't be afraid to speak spontaneously if you become inspired.

Dress comfortably and neatly, without distractions, and appropriate to your audience.

Avoid ummms and ahhhhs. They distract your listeners. Pauses are better and give your audience time to think.

Tell them. Tell them. Tell them.

Relax!