

Pick three of the topics below. No duplicates are permitted, so you may have to move to a second or third choice. Be ready. Motivated students will have priority in choice.

The French and Indian Wars The Boston Massacre Jamestown
Andrew Jackson Salem Witch Trials The 49er's Battle of Yorktown Indentured servitude
The Seven Cities of Cibola The Northwest Passage Aaron Burr The Slave trade
The Trail of Tears tobacco The Puritans Manifest Destiny The Whiskey Rebellion
Johnny Appleseed The Stamp Act The Boston Tea Party Dred Scott decision
Frederick Douglass The Alamo The Militia Thomas Jefferson
Brigham Young Monroe Doctrine John Adams The Loyalists
The Articles of Confederation Shay's Rebellion James Madison The Great Compromise
The Great Awakening The Electoral College The Fifth Amendment

DETAILS

The Mini-I-Search is a short, focussed research project that will result in a short, formal paper with an emphasis on proper source citations, and a brief teaching presentation to share the findings. This mini-project is a pre-requisite designed to teach the format of the Expert Project coming in the spring.

The I-Search is an 'expert'-style project where students often investigate subjects of their own choice. I've made some modifications for this assignment. Students will get to choose from a wide-ranging list of topics from American History. They will be expected to develop questions, locate answers, record notes and **maintain a Daily Log** before assembling the paper and presentation. I will contribute at least one required question to help focus the research. That will be, **In what way did this event or person contribute something important to American history?** An answer for this question is required for the paper and the presentation. All work for this mini-project is to be stored in a separate section of the Daily Folder for random inspection by me and parents. Cool.

HERE'S HOW:

Time is tight and there's a LOT going on these last few weeks before Winter Break. Check your planner and stay *organized*. Missing deadlines will have an even more powerful effect on your work with this project. Here is what you need to do, step by step,

1. **DO ALL DAY ONE ACTIONS.** This will work best if you're with us when we start the project. Organize your Daily Folder I-SEARCH section to include the following sub-sections: What I Already Know; What I

Imagine I'll Find Out; What I Want to Know; Notes; Answers with Sources; LOG.

2. At the end of Day One, begin daily Log entries. Your LOG entries will be vital for the writing you'll need to do. Note that. All log entries should include what you did on that workday; all entries should include everyone you talked to and all sources you used. Information that answers questions should be stored in the 'Answers with Sources' section; useful information that does not answer specific questions but may, in your opinion, be useful for your presentation or report, should be stored in 'Notes.'
3. Proceed with your research. **Use at least three different sources--at least one from the Internet--to find answers to your questions.** Make sure to maintain your LOG. You'll need it to complete this project successfully.
4. Next...we'll write the rough draft of this *short* report in class, then edit (if you make the deadline) and prepare for the presentations. Some of the work will take place at school, but there will be homework required.

THE CALENDAR

The calendar to the break is extremely crowded. Be aware of the following key dates for this project. If you miss school, make sure to do the responsible thing. Dates:

Monday, 11/16: Day One; topics settled; trip to SMS library for Dewey Decimal insights prior to...

Wednesday/Thursday 11/18-19: Research journey to Central Library
Locate useful sources; check 'em out

Monday 11/16-Thursday 12/3: Research...some time provided in class

Monday 12/7-Wednesday 12/9: *rough draft writing of all sections in class*

Thursday 12.10: **EDIT rough draft in class; bring all parts, completed**

Monday 12/14:: FINAL COPY OF REPORT DUE

MONDAY 12/14-Friday 12/18: PRESENTATIONS IN CLASS

Quite a schedule, but I'm confident you can all do it. Keep the log; that is the key to happiness for this particular research project. Good luck.