

SCORE

PROPOSAL

By Monday, November 23, 2009, every student is responsible for turning in a 4 page proposal to his or her advisor. This proposal should outline the final paper you plan to write. You should consider all the following points before drafting your proposal.

Research Before You Write

- Brainstorm a list of interests/topics about which you are passionate.
- Write two or three sentences for each topic explaining what exactly makes you passionate about it. Be as specific about your topic as you possibly can be.
- Evaluate your topics based on their potential to be turned into a substantive SCORE project, which would include a research paper, formal presentation, and internship/primary research. If you have any reservations about the potential of your topic, speak to your advisor ASAP.

Preliminary Research

- Go to the library and begin preliminary research, including information on the background and history of your topic. While a Google search is a reasonable place to start, you must evaluate more sophisticated sources before finalizing your topic.
- Once you have exhausted the material you have found, ask a librarian for help finding additional resources.
- Evaluate whether there are enough resources at your disposal to complete a research paper, presentation and an internship/primary research that will allow you to demonstrate the academic knowledge and skills you have gained at Manchester Essex Regional High School.
- Finalize your topic, ensuring that it is something you actually care about and will satisfy the requirements of the paper, presentation, and internship.

Proposal Pre-Writing

- Develop the question you hope to answer regarding your topic. Keeping your specific passion for the topic in mind, ask yourself: "What one question do I hope to answer?"
- Develop tentative answers to your question based on your initial sources.
- Develop an initial list of sources you know you will be able to use, ensuring that you have a variety of sources that include books, periodicals, interviews, surveys, websites, blogs, wikis, and podcasts.
- Develop a list of potential resources that you currently don't have access to but you hope to get additional information from, including interlibrary loan books, additional periodicals, potential interviews, and/or individuals who can give additional direction to your research.

The Proposal

Your research proposal consists of the following:

- A specific and detailed explanation of the central question to be investigated in your paper.
- An overview of the information you have learned from your preliminary research about the topic.
- An explanation of how this preliminary research will impact the answer to your central question and your eventual thesis statement.
- An explanation of how you plan to pursue a firsthand experience outside of school to learn more about your topic. How will an internship or primary research be integrated into your paper?
- A description of the sources you plan to use and a general bibliographical sketch that meets the requirements listed above.
- A description of the potential sources you hope to gain access to.
- Submit it to your adviser by the assigned date.

RESEARCH PAPER

After having your SCORE proposal approved by your advisor, you may begin working on the research paper itself. The paper will be a 12-20 page exploration of your topic that incorporates original research and thoughtful analysis to support its thesis.

The paper must contain the following content:

- An introductory section which culminates in a specific and clearly stated thesis. What are your goals for the paper?
- A section which explains the development of why people like you are interested in the topic. Why is this topic relevant to people like you? What did you hope your reader learns and why?
- A section on necessary background needed for your reader to grasp the importance, relevancy, and recent developments within your topic area.
- A section in which you interpret and analyze your research, supporting the ideas and conclusions you have formulated. This should provide a thoughtful analysis of what you have learned over the last nine months from your research. Remember, this section in particular should be tightly tied to your thesis statement.
- A section in which you interpret and analyze your internship or primary source research. This should provide a thoughtful analysis of what you have learned over the last nine months from your research. Remember, this section in particular should be tightly tied to your thesis statement.
- A section in which you propose further areas to explore within your topic. What questions still remain about your topic? What new questions do you have?
- A section in which you conclude your paper, bringing together all aspects of your paper. Readdress the relevancy of your topic to the wider world. What conclusions do you want readers to take away about your topic.

Please note:

The paper must contain at least 10 cited sources of four different types with at least one non-family member interview. It may include at books, periodicals, primary source interviews, primary source website/podcast/video, and your individual SCORE research. You must cite (using MLA format) at least 10 times.

It will be double spaced and use 12 point Times New Roman font. Margins will be no more than one inch.

It paper may not fall below the minimum or above the maximum page requirements.

It will count as either 40% of your SCORE grade and will be graded by a committee of three to four teachers using a standard rubric. The percentages for the different stages in the writing process are found below in the list of due dates.

Due Dates:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| November 23 rd | Topic Proposal | 5 points |
| April ____ | Thesis and Outline | 10 points |
| May ____ | First Draft Due/Peer Review | 15 points |
| May ____ | Final Draft Due | 70 points |

PRESENTATION

By the end of May 2010, every student will formally present their research to a three person panel and invited guests. While the presentation will be built on the student's research paper and their internship/primary research, this will provide students the opportunity to reflect on their experience as a whole. The presentation will count as 40% percent of your SCORE grade. Since the presentation will require students to present for 15 minutes with a 60-second grace period, you should have a clear structure to how you spend your time. Students' language, comporment, and attire should reflect the formality of the occasion. Upon the conclusion of the presentation, there will be questions from the three person panel.

Potential Presentation Topics

Your presentation is only 15 minutes so you will only have time for one or two of the following focal points.

- Describe your SCORE goals and analyze whether you accomplished them.
- Summarize what you liked and disliked about your SCORE experience.
- Analyze how successful you were at your internship/primary research.
- Compare and contrast the findings of your research with your internship/primary research.

You must be prepared to address and/or respond to questions about the following:

- Analyze how your SCORE project impacted your life or career interests.
- Summarize the personal growth you experienced during the SCORE experience.
- Analyze the lifelong lessons you learned during SCORE.
- Analyze how your secondary education made you successful at your SCORE project.
- Summarize how your SCORE project influenced your expectations of college or a career.

Drafting Your Presentation

- Recognize that preparing a presentation always takes longer than you anticipate, so start early.
- Brainstorm what the five most significant things you learned doing this project.
- Using this list, create a detailed outline of what you would like to cover in your ___ minute presentation. Since you have already done so much work, synthesizing that information will be your most significant challenge.
- Check your list to make sure that the points in your outline are in a logical sequence, telling a complete story of your experience.
- Design an opening that will catch the interest and attention of the audience.
- Pick an appropriate visual aid for your presentation, such as PowerPoint, video documentary, blog, website, or other approved technology.
- Prepare a handout to help guide your audience, making sure to make 10% more copies than you expect to use.
- Consult the appropriate tip sheet on how to use your visual aid properly.

Practicing For Your Presentation

- Time your entire presentation to ensure you do not exceed the time requirements.
- Practice with your visual aid to ensure that it functions correctly.
- Practice your content to the point that your words naturally follow your ideas but do not attempt to memorize your text.
- Practice in front of family and friends to ease your anxiety and to receive constructive criticism.

Delivering Your Presentation

- Arrive early so you have a few minutes to test the equipment, use the bathroom, and settle your nerves.
- Distribute your handout at the beginning of your presentation.
- Use your prepared opening and then briefly summarize the topic you will be discussing.
- Speak in a natural, moderate rate of speech and project a clear tone.
- Make eye contact with the audience and refrain from distracting gestures.
- Use your notes as a reference point but avoid reading them.
- End on time.
- Demonstrate your enthusiasm for the project while maintaining proper decorum for the situation.
- Remember that effective presentations are more than just a list of events and facts, it is a story of your experience.
- Concisely summarize your main ideas in your conclusion.
- Resist the temptation to add a few last impromptu words.
- End your presentation with the summary statement or question you started with. What is the one thing you want your audience to remember?
- Have fun.

INTERNSHIP

The internship experience will count for 20% of the final grade of the SCORE project and will involve an experience within the area of exploration. Students will participate in the internship for 30 hours/week during SCORE. Those students who are taking AP courses will have the 30 hours/week requirement reduced by five hours for each AP course being taken, until the AP exam is completed.

The internship will be graded on three components:

- Evaluation of Internship Supervisor
- Attendance
- Blog Journal

Evaluation of Internship Supervisor

The person responsible for supervising the student while s/he is on-site at SCORE will complete an evaluation form of the student. This form will be provided to the supervisor by the school's SCORE Advisor.

Attendance

Attendance toward the 30 hours/week time requirement will be taken. A student's grade will be reduced should absences occur that are not documented and reasonable.

Blog Journal

Students will be responsible for completing a blog about their internship experience. Students will be shown how to use blogger.com, and must complete three blog entries per week of 250 words (minimum) each. The blog should speak directly to activities undertaken as part of the internship, the student's feeling toward the experience, and lessons learned as part of the SCORE activity.