**PROJECT OVERVIEW . . . BUILDING A "CASE FILE"**

**The Task:** Create a Case File around one of history’s unsolved mysteries

History is filled with unsolved mysteries. Whether it’s historical, scientific, supernatural, medical, or just down right unexplainable- you will get the chance to become a detective and try to crack the case. Your task in this research project is to choose one of those mysteries and present a plausible theory or theories to explain it. You will research a variety of sources to uncover possible theories and the clues that support them. After you conclude your research, you will create a “Case File”. This case file will include 2 components: a 1-2 page essay and a creative final product to display your research and findings to your class.

**Part 1: Type a 1–2 PAGE RESEARCH ESSAY**

Will be written in a research paper format, including the following information-

- A catchy title
- **1st paragraph:** An introductory paragraph that includes a HOOK, Thesis, and introduces a Question about your unsolved mystery that readers will think about as they read (grab their attention and keep them hooked from beginning to end).
- **2nd paragraph:** An explanation of the mystery. Facts surrounding the mystery. The background information on the topic- WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY
Part 2: Create an interesting final product that will display your research and findings to your class.

This next step will be paired with your essay (2 parts total to your final Embedded Assessment). You will read your essay first to give the audience background and then will display the creative final product second. Part 2 will really impact your readers’ understanding and interest level in your unsolved mystery. Choose one below or a combination of two of them. If you have another creative idea, other than the ones listed, check with Mrs. Elliott and see if your idea will work. Get creative and have fun!!!
STEP 1: BRAINSTORM IDEAS

1. Browse through the unsolved mystery list of topics. Think of at least 3 that you are interested in and narrow it down to one.

Final Product Idea # 1 ________________________________________________

Final Product Idea # 2 ________________________________________________

Final Product Idea # 3 ________________________________________________

2. Choose your Cold Case topic and turn your topic into a question:

What is it about this mystery that you want to know?

I am researching ________________________________________________

What I want to know?

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

STEP 2: NOTE TAKING, COLLECTING EVIDENCE

HOW TO TAKE NOTES along the way and keep up with data:

Keep track of all notes, data, pictures, videos, websites, and website URL addresses (to cite your sources) in your GOOGLE DRIVE:

Google Drive> 6th grade> ELA folder> Embedded Assessments> Create a NEW FOLDER and name it “Unsolved Mysteries Research Project”
● This folder will keep as many important notes and documents you collect-
* note taking, theories, pictures, expert/scientific/medical/historical
facts or statements,, eye witness statements or interviews, and
video clips reporting on the mystery, etc…..
● Every source you end up borrowing information from MUST be cited at
the end of the essay. (Example: “WORKS CITED” page, where you will
copy and paste all website URL addresses you borrowed information
from.

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**STEP 3: PROJECT TIMELINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Goal for the Day/Week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 4/18</td>
<td>Introduction of the project in ELA class: Introductory Google Slides, Research Plan handout, Brainstorm &amp; discuss Unsolved Mysteries Ideas, Choose to work alone or with a partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 4/19</td>
<td>Computer Lab Research: Choose a topic, Begin gathering evidence, Notetaking</td>
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<td>Friday, 4/20</td>
<td>Research in Class: Gathering evidence, Notetaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 4/26</td>
<td>Research in Class: Intro to Essay Writing (Part 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 4/27</td>
<td>Research in Class: Intro to Essay Writing (Part 1), Works Cited page as last page in essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 4/30</td>
<td>Research in Class: Gathering evidence, Notetaking, Essay Writing (Part 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 5/4</td>
<td>Research in Class: Gathering evidence, Notetaking, Essay Writing (Part 1), Begin Creative Project (Part 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 5/7</td>
<td>Computer Lab Research: Notetaking, Essay Writing (Part 1), Begin Creative Project (Part 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 5/16</td>
<td>Research in Class: Gathering evidence, Notetaking, Essay Writing (Part 1), Creative Project (Part 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 5/17</td>
<td>Computer Lab Research: Notetaking, Essay Writing (Part 1), Creative Project (Part 2)</td>
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<td>Monday, 5/21</td>
<td>Computer Lab Research: Finalize Project- Part 1 &amp; 2 for presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of May 22-24 (Tuesday-Thursday)</td>
<td>In Class PRESENTATIONS DUE</td>
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**STEP 4: RESEARCH PROJECT FINAL CHECKLIST for PRESENTATION**

**Part 1 Research Essay Paper MUST HAVE:**
- Catchy Title
- 5 paragraphs or more (depending on your topic and theories)
- 1-2 pages total (1 is the minimum, 2 is the maximum)
- Works Cited as a last page in the document
- Revise and Edit your doc for Grammatical Errors

**Part 2 Research Creative Project MUST HAVE:**
- You will present with essay. The essay will be read first and the project second, or may be used with the essay, while reading aloud.
- Creative way to display your information to your class, containing facts, evidence, pictures, etc.
- Organized and creative-easy for class to follow
- Have all the necessary materials ready for your presentation.