



STUDENT INSTRUCTION GUIDE

Portfolio Section 1: Choosing and Researching Your Topic

- 1. 📁 Research Topic and Question (2 points):** Think of a topic that you are interested in and do not know much about. Compose an interesting question about your topic that will guide your research. Below the question, write a paragraph or two explaining why you chose your topic.
- 2. 📁 Semantic Map (4 points):** Create a semantic map using a computer. Begin by typing your topic question in the center of your document. Then draw a circle around the question. In the space surrounding your question, add related questions that come to mind. Circle the new questions and draw lines that connect the newer questions to the older ones they relate to. Your semantic map should contain a minimum of ten new topic sub-questions that you would like to consider as you explore your main topic question. Use this semantic map to guide your project research.
- 3. Research and Notes (6 points):** Using at least ten different sources (such as Internet websites, books, periodicals, journals, and knowledgeable people you know), thoroughly research each of your semantic-map questions. Feel free to add to your map of questions as you go along, and to revise any existing questions. As you conduct your research, take careful notes using your own words (on sheets of paper to place in your portfolio). Also, be sure to record the bibliographic information for each source as you take notes from it. You will need this information to identify your sources for the two portfolio requirements below. You may want to review their resource cards for the type of bibliographic information you should record.
- 4. 📁 Hot-List Chart (2 points):** Create a chart that lists four to six of the most useful websites you found while researching your semantic-map questions. Your hot-list chart should include the name of each website, its web address, and a brief summary of its content.
- 5. 📁 Bibliography (3 points):** Create a bibliography listing of all the books, articles, websites, or other sources you received information from for your research and note taking. Follow the MLA style of documentation.
- 6. 📁 Survey (3 points):** Create and conduct a survey based on your research to learn people's opinions or understanding about one or more interesting features of your topic. Survey a minimum of ten people. Be sure to record the gender and age of each person you talk to. You will need this demographic information to create the double bar graph described below.
- 7. 📁 Computer-Generated Double Bar Graph (3 points):** Choose one question from your survey that produced interesting or surprising results. Classify the survey results for this question into two groups (gender groups or age groups) based on the demographic information that you recorded. Using a computer, create a double bar graph that compares the responses of each group for the question you chose.

Portfolio Section 2: Reporting Your Findings

- 1. 📁 Newspaper:** For this portfolio section, you will design, write articles for, and edit a newspaper dedicated to your topic. To begin, analyze various newspapers for layouts, features, and writing styles. After becoming familiar with the format and content of a newspaper, you will be ready to begin working on yours. Your newspaper should be created on a computer and should include each of the elements listed below. In addition to your informational writing, feel free to use your creative writing skills. Follow the steps of the writing process when creating your newspaper and remember to include a newspaper title, day, date, and index.
 - Newspaper Articles (2 points each, total of 16 points):** Write a minimum of eight articles for your newspaper. Each article should focus on one of the semantic-map questions you researched. Though your articles will contain information you gathered during your research, each must be written in your own words. Each article should begin with an intriguing lead sentence and conclude with a strong ending sentence. Read below first.
 - Newspaper Informational Text Structures (2 points each, total of 16 points):** Six of your eight articles should be written using a different informational text structure. The informational text structures are as follows: (1) Cause and Effect, (2) Compare and Contrast, (3) Description, (4) Problem and Solution, (5) Question and Answer, and (6) Sequence. The remaining two or more articles can use any text structure you choose.