

MACOPIN SCHOOL

RELATED ARTS

SYLLABUS

I. COURSE TITLE:

Research Skills - Grade 7

II. TEXTBOOK:

No specified text

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This one-marking period course is designed to teach students how to properly develop a coherent research paper. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of properly citing references used in the text of the paper in order to avoid plagiarism. Students will be made aware of the various ways in which plagiarism can occur. The Modern Language Association (MLA) format will be used in the teaching of this class.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

During the marking period, the students will:

- A. Silently read a wide range of short stories, as provided by the teacher. (CCCS 3.4)
- B. Develop proper research techniques using a library. (CCCS 3.3)
- C. Learn to avoid the use of an encyclopedia.
- D. Learn to use Internet search engines correctly. (CCCS 3.4)
- E. Learn to paraphrase material correctly. (CCCS 3.3)
- F. Learn to evaluate the importance of material found during research.
- G. Learn the definition of plagiarism.
- H. Learn how to avoid plagiarism.
- I. Learn how to narrow the focus of their selected research topic. (CCCS 3.3)
- J. Learn how to develop a proper thesis statement for the research paper. (CCCS 3.3)
- K. Learn how to develop the body and the conclusion of the research paper. (CCCS 3.3)
- L. Learn how to properly develop a works cited page, listing material that was used in the construction of the research paper. (CCCS 3.3)
- M. Learn the proper use of internal citations. (CCCS 3.3)
- N. Learn the proper MLA heading format.

V. COURSE CONTENT OUTLINE:

- A. Silent Reading
- B. Select Topic for Research
- C. Compiling of Research Material

- D. Development of Research Paper
- E. Correctly cite the material used in the construction of the research paper

#### VI. STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

The following is a list of suggested activities that may be implemented in the teaching of this class:

- A. Have students research a topic such as an inventor of the 1800s or 1900s and complete a three-component project. The first component of the project is to complete a three-page typed report that profiles the topic chosen, fully supported with proper internal citations and a works cited page. The second component is to complete a visual report about the topic. Some examples of a visual report might be a poster, a PowerPoint presentation, a three-dimensional representation relevant to the topic, or a working model of the invention. The third component is an oral presentation delivered to the class.
- B. Have students complete the reading of a novel and report on the novel read. Many different avenues may be taken in the report, including focusing on the setting, the historical importance of the time period described in the novel, or the author of the novel.
- C. Provide students with a variety of short stories, which are to be read silently. (See teaching materials.) At the teacher's discretion, the students may report orally on the story or type a maximum two-page report of the story.
- D. Provide students with the opportunity to practice the skills learned in the class, with worksheets that stress the MLA format.

#### VII. EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:

The evaluation of student learning should be based on the outcome of each of the typed/written assignments given. The following percentages should be applied to computer the marking period grades:

- A. Research report - 25%
- B. Novel report - 25%
- C. Short story report - 25%
- D. MLA format worksheets - 15%
- E. Class participation, including silent reading - 10%