The Kite Runner  
Research Project

The purpose of this assignment is to gain background knowledge relevant to the novel we will be reading, *The Kite Runner*. In addition, by sharing the information you find, we are able to create a shared fund of knowledge for the whole class.

A. Student Learning Outcomes: *At the end of this project you will be able to*…
1. Locate and read at least **three sources** of information about a topic from at least two different types of sources including books, periodicals, internet sites, documentary films or encyclopedias.
2. Write a two to three page report of the information found from research about a topic.
3. Present a short oral presentation of the research results to a small group of classmates.

B. Clarify Your Topic
1. Select a topic from worksheet
2. Brainstorm possible questions (at least 5) that you would like to have answered in your paper. This will help guide your research.

C. Gather and evaluate Sources
1. You will need to use a minimum of three (3) sources for your paper.
2. You will need to use at least two (2) different types of sources, including books, periodicals, internet sites, or encyclopedias. (Warning with internet sources: Make sure your source is reputable. If the source is unknown to you, make sure you check the information against reputable sources.)
3. NO WIKIPEDIA

D. Cite Your Sources
1. **Source Cards**
   a. For every source, record the publication data on an index card. EACH SOURCEGETS ITS OWN CARD.
   b. Assign each source a letter, and note it at the top right of the card. Later, when you’re taking notes, you can label the notes by source letter instead of author and title.
   c. Record the publication data. Specific information about books, videos, web sites, and other sources appears on pages 987-989 in your text book. You may also reference OWL@purdue for guidance.
   i. **Basic Format for a book:**
      Last Name, First Name. Title of Book. Publisher, Publication Date.
      Here's what an example looks like:
   ii. **An Article in a Scholarly Journal**
      Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Journal, Volume, Issue, Year, pages.
      Here's what an example looks like:
   iii. **Citing an Entire Web Site**
      It is a good idea to list your date of access because web postings are often updated, and information available on one date may no longer be available
later. When using the URL, be sure to include the complete address for the site except for the https://.
Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). Name of Site. Version number, Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available), URL, DOI or permalink. Date of access (if applicable).

Here's what an example looks like:

iv. **A Page on a Web Site**
For an individual page on a Web site, list the author or alias if known, followed by the information covered above for entire Web sites. If the publisher is the same as the website name, only list it once.

Here's what an example looks like:

2. **Works Cited Page**
Once you have your source cards complete, you will take the information from the cards exactly as it is formatted and transfer it to a works cited page.
A. On (a) separate page(s) at the end of your paper, list alphabetically by author every work cited in your paper.
B. Title the page Works Cited (not Bibliography), at the top of a new page, centered.
C. Spacing - All entries should be double-spaced, unless your assignment instructs you otherwise.
D. Indentation - Begin an entry at the margin; indent the remaining lines five spaces.
E. Source Titles - Underline or italicize titles of books, periodicals, films, and television series (but not individual episodes).

E. **Gather Information on Note Cards (p. 987 in text)**
1. Never put notes form more than one source on the same card.
2. Write an identifying word or phrase (subheading) in the upper left and the source letter in the upper right of each card or page.
3. Indicate whether you are quoting, summarizing, or paraphrasing your source, by writing a Q, S, or P in the upper left underneath your identifying word.
4. Note the page number of the source in the upper right of the card after the source letter. Use a comma to separate the source letter and the page number.
5. Record ONLY one piece of information relevant to the topic. BE SURE TO USE A SEPARATE CARD FOR EACH DIFFERENT POINT. (You will probably use between 5 and 10 cards per source.)

F. **Create an Outline**
1. First, group your index cards by subheading.
2. Next, organize your cards for each subheading in a logical order for your paper.
3. Then, organize your different subheadings in a logical order for your paper.
4. Create an outline -- the different parts of the paper should be the Roman numerals, your subheadings should be the capital letters, and specific details should be regular numbers. You must have at least two, so if you have an A, you must have a B.
Example:

THESIS STATEMENT: When earth's citizens recognize wetlands' values, perhaps they will be more concerned about the protection of those vanishing areas.

I. Definition of wetlands
   A. Definition by category
   B. Definition by characteristics
   C. Definition by law

II. Destruction of wetlands
   A. Losses
      1. Past
      2. Continuing
   B. Causes

III. Effects of Destruction
   A. On plant life
   B. On animal life
      1. Marine Creatures
      2. Waterfowl
      3. Other wildlife
   C. On water
      1. Storage area
      2. Filtering system
      3. Storm protection
   D. On biosphere

IV. Value to humans
   A. Economic impact
   B. Economic controversy
   C. Resulting efforts

G. Write Your Paper / How to format your paper

1. General Guidelines
   a. Type your paper on a computer and print it out on standard, white 8.5 x 11-inch paper.
   b. Double-space the text of your paper, and use a legible font like Times New Roman or Courier.
   c. Set the margins of your document to 1 inch on all sides. Indent the first line of a paragraph one half-inch (five spaces or press tab once) from the left margin.
   d. Create a header that gives your last name and that numbers all pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin.
   e. Use either italics or underlining throughout your essay for the titles of longer works and, only when absolutely necessary, providing emphasis.

2. Formatting the First Page of Your Paper
   a. Do not make a title page for your paper unless specifically requested.
   b. In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, list your name, your instructor's name, the course, and the date. Again, be sure to use double-spaced text.
c. Double space again and center the title. Do not underline your title or put it in quotation marks; write the title in Title Case, not in all capital letters.
d. Double space between the title and the first line of the text.

Here is a sample first page of an essay in MLA style:

Smith 1

Pete Smith
Dr. B. Boilermaker
English 101
12 October 2005

Building a Dream: Reasons to Expand
Ross-Aide Stadium

During the 2000 football season, the Purdue Boilermakers won the Big Ten Conference Title, earned their first trip to the Rose Bowl in thirty-four years, and played every game in front of a sold-out crowd. Looking ahead...