**Pacing Yourself Through this Project**

**The Eight Steps to Success**

As far as the writing is concerned, each section of this paper will require the following steps. I call them the ***Eight Steps to Success.*** Following the ***Eight Steps to Success*** takes a minimum of 3 days per paper, often longer, *for the writing portion and does not include the time it takes to formulate the questions, find the sources, read those source, take notes on those source, and think about the information,* all of which can add many days to the process.

1. Initial draft
2. Self-edit
3. 2nd draft
4. Peer edit
5. 3rd draft
6. Self-edit
7. Polished Draft
8. Self assessment using rubric

**How Long Will it Take?**

Experience has shown that the following guidelines should be adhered to when planning out your research:

1. The ***What I Know*** & ***What I Want to Know*** *(Narrative written in 1st Person)* section should take approximately 7 – 10 days. Identifying what you think you know and how you think you came to know this is fairly straight forward. Writing a researchable question(s) can be difficult. Plan to spend a day or two working on the What I Know section, another 3 – 4 days identifying, classifying, and reworking the guiding question as well as other important questions before beginning the *Eight Steps to Success* for the section. Weaving the 2 pieces together into a cohesive whole will take another day.
2. The ***Research Journey/Works Cited*** *(Narrative written in 1st Person)* will, by far, take the bulk of your time. In each research journey, you will summarize the information you discover in a source. This is where you will spend much of your time searching, critically reading, and synthesizing new knowledge with old knowledge. Questions will be answered and new questions will arise. A GREAT DEAL OF TIME WILL BE SPENT READING BEFORE YOU EVEN BEGIN WRITING. Allow a minimum of 10 - 14 days to complete the write up of 3 sources. Remember, each source will require:
   1. MLA citation
   2. A description of how you discovered this source
   3. The process you used to evaluate the source
   4. A summary of the information in the source
   5. A description of what questions were answered and what questions were raised; what knowledge was confirmed, what knowledge was challenged, and what new knowledge was discovered.
3. The ***What I Have Learned*** *(Explanatory or Argumentative written in 3rd Person)* section is a formal research paper and is to be written according to specific requirements. This paper will require a good deal of time, as this is where you need to think a great deal about what you have learned and communicate that to your reader. Your writing will shift to 3rd person and will need to support your opinions and conclusions with evidence from your sources. That evidence will need to be cited according to the rules established by the MLA. This paper is the compilation of all your work. It often runs 4 – 6 pages. You will have 1 week to draft, edit, and polish the WIL with the corresponding Works Cited. The ***Works Cited***, if the research was done correctly and all sources were stored in your Easybib account, is a matter of simply exporting into a word document and should take about 10 minutes. If you did not do the research correctly, then the Work Cited page could take several days to complete.
4. Your **Reflection** *(Narrative 1st Person)* In this paragraph you return to 1st person and share your thoughts about the I-Search process. What did you learn about the art of research? What was valuable? Tell the story of your experience as a learner as you moved through the process. Additionally, you will need to share with the reader how you have grown as a learner as a result of having gone through the I-Search project. Allow 3-4 days to complete this section.

**Scheduling the *I-Search* Paper**

**Due Dates**

The final *What I’ve Learned* section of the ***I-Search*** paper will be due on December 12th. However, the other sections of the paper have their own due dates. Note them in your passport. There are multiple steps to this paper and it is essential that you plan out and pace yourself through this project. While I know it might be intimidating, consider this good practice for high school. To assist you in this process, the due dates for each section of you paper are listed below.

**Signed Topic Approval October 28th**

**What I Know** *(all drafts completed)* **October 31st**

**Research Question** *(approval)*  **November 3rd**

**What I Know and What I Want to Know** *(submission)*  **November 10th**

**Research Journeys**

**Source #1:** *(submission)*  **November 17th**

**Source #2:** *(completed)*  **November 24th**

**Source # 2 & #3:** *(submission)*  **December 2nd**

**What I Learned & Works Cited** *(submission)* **December 9th**

**Reflection** *(submission)* **December 11th**

You must enter these due dates in your assignment notebook. Then you must think seriously about what steps are involved and when you will have time to complete those steps while you work toward the final product. ***While you will be given the opportunity to work on this paper in class, much of the work will need to be accomplished outside of the school day.*** Plan accordingly.