

School Reform Research Paper and Project



+General Information

- The school reform project is an opportunity for students to have a voice in their own education and/or the rules that govern it. The project will combine successful research, writing, and presentation skills.
- A successful project may not lead to concrete changes in our school or district, but will be an honest, well-presented effort to create change.

Requirements

- A researched paper of no fewer than seven pages (MLA format, not including works cited page). The paper will contain:
 - anecdotal and statistical research.
 - a history of the problem and its current status.
 - evidence from experts, students, and other source.
 - Research from experts, surveys, and personal interviews about the issue.
 - A multimedia presentation.
- It is critically important that your paper include quality, academic research. If you ask for help finding good research, I will assist. Make sure to request assistance soon.
- I must approve your topic before you go forward. Please develop this idea soon. Once two groups have chosen a topic, no one else may cover the same ground.
- You may work in groups ranging in size from one to four.
- The final draft of the paper and the presentation will be due on the day of the final.



Information to Keep in Mind

- This project will require a lot of collaboration and planning. Because you are going to need to schedule meetings with school officials and plan presentations around their schedules, you cannot wait until the last minute. You need to begin immediately to develop a plan and start scheduling meetings.
- The presentations will need to be approved by me before presentation. I'm not concerned about controlling content, but ensuring that the presentation is professional, well-researched, and thoroughly developed.
- Ethos, ethos, ethos. You might have to overcome some barriers with regard to your perceived ethos. Good choices about dress, tone, and preparation will go a long way towards overcoming these issues.
- Your proposal should not be about a specific class, teacher, or other person in the district. We can discuss this in class.
- IMPORTANT DATES
 - Topic Chosen 5/20
 - Research Request to Pogreba 5/22
 - Rough Draft 5/29

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A Small List of Potential Topics

- Block scheduling
- Smaller Learning Communities
- Homework Reform
- International Baccalaureate/Advanced Placement
- Increased Funding for Arts, Music, Foreign Language, Etc.
- Changed Graduation Requirements
- Changed Math Requirements
- Flipped Classroom
- Nutritious Lunches
- Vocational Education Reform
- Later Start Time
- Grading Reform
- Weighted GPA for AP/Honors
- Teacher Evaluation Reform
- Student Evaluation of Teachers
- Technology Changes
- Electronic Textbooks
- Competency-based evaluation
- Health Curriculum