## **Passion Project**

When you were little did you ask a million questions about dinosaurs, space, germs, or some other topic, but no one really answered your questions? Ever wonder about something late into the night? Is there a burning question, searing your brain? If so, you are going to love this project. If not, then we’re going to open your mind to new possibilities!

You are going to find your passion--something you want to read about, write about, take pictures of, share a story about, and even make a website to share your passion.

### How It Works

First, we’ll do some activities to help those who don’t have a topic yet. You’ll want to keep in mind that this is an individual project, and we’ll be working on it for about a month and a half.

Next, after you have a topic, we’ll formulate a “burning question.” A **burning question** is something that you want to solve, discover, explore, or seek during your Passion Project journey. This question should be at the center of all you do. Your website will be designed to share the “answer” to your question. Don’t worry. . . some questions lead to more questions, but you’ll want to consider this carefully. You’ll need to run it by me, since this part is such a big deal.

After you have a topic and a burning question, then you’re going to find a non-fiction book on the topic. It has to be a *book*. I know. . . I know. . . there’s this thing called the internet. Don’t worry, you’ll get to that. First though, you are going to read a book to gather background knowledge before your project really starts to take shape. When should you read this book? As soon as possible. You’ll have reading time during class in the early part of the month, but you should carry this book with you to also read during study halls and free times.

Then, after you’ve read your book, the real fun begins! You’ll need to design your **Project Parameters.** A Parameter is a rule or limit that controls what something is or how it should be done. Most of the time, I give you the parameters, but the beauty of this project is to find ways to chase your passion, and then, of course, “show what you know.” I’ve italicized every graded part of the project (classwork or quiz grades)

**Here’s our timeline, starting with the very first steps:**

**March 15**: Library to get book (get it ahead of time if you want).

**March 16/17:** Learn all about the project: *Igniting the Burning Questions*

**March 28**--30: Library for website demo/ work time/ questions

**March 31**: Creating *Project Parameters* in class. Must be handed in on April 1st. (These parameters will be listed on your website).

**March 1:** Questions, conferencing, project discussions

**April 4**: Class check in day--*share Project Parameters w/Resource Group.*

**April 5,6,7:** ELA ASSESSMENTS (\*Class schedules will be different, and I may not see you for class time. Continue on with your reading. This project is NOT dependent on coming to class)

**April 8:** Revisiting “burning questions”

**April 11 and 12**: *Conferencing* with me

**April 13, 14, and 15**: MATH ASSESSMENTS (\*Class schedules will be different, and I may not see you for class time. Continue on with your reading. This project is NOT dependent on coming to class)

**April 18 and 19** (I will be out scoring assessments) Continue reading

**April 20**: Checkpoint. What progress have you made towards your project? Meet with Resource Group to debrief and strategize. Bring in evidence of what you have been doing.

**April 21**: More website instruction

**April 22:** *Process Presentation* overview

**April 25 and April 26**: (I will be out scoring assessments) Finish reading. Book should be complete by April 27.

**April 27**: Learning how to write a book review.

**April 28 and April 29**: Writing the *book review* (This will appear on your website).

**May 2-4:** Website workdays

**May 5:** Explanation of *Process Presentation*

**May 6:** Presentation planning

**May 9:** Presentation workday

**May 10--13**: Presentations (\*must be 5-7 min)

**May 16--17**: Presentations

**May 18**: Debriefing and Reflection

### FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

* How am I supposed to do this if I don’t have the internet at home?
  + Study halls
  + Stay after school
  + We’ll be working on this a substantial amount during class
* What if I don’t know how to build a website?
  + I’ll help
  + Your friends will help
  + The librarian will help
  + Watch the tutorials
* Why are the presentations timed?
  + Believe it or not, shorter presentations require more skill
  + We have lots of students
  + You have mastered the basics (loud, clear, prepared), so it is time to push ahead
* What is a Process Presentation?
  + It is the narrative of your journey
  + It will be told using the website you build
  + It is personal
* Can I invite people to the presentation?
  + Yes!
  + I will be inviting your parents and our administrators
* What happens if I am not taking the assessments?
  + You’ll have even more time on the project
* What happens if I am taking the assessments?
  + You’ll read when you have completed the assessment
* Can I do the same project as someone else?
  + Yes and No
  + Yes: you may have the same topic and even the same question
  + No: you are not creating a collaborative project, but you are encouraged to help each other out
* Do I have to use Wix?
  + No. It is just very easy to use, and I can give you the most guidance
* What if my parents don’t want me to create a webpage?
  + You may do a Prezi
  + Please realize that we will keep these websites set to private if there is any concerns