

The Culminating Project I-Search Paper

Instructions:

1. Read the information below for guidelines on completing your I-Search.
2. Save your essay as a Microsoft Word document.
3. Submit your document to the “I-Search” assignment on Turnitin.com.
4. Check Turnitin.com to get feedback on revising the assignment. (nearly everyone needs to revise at least once)

The I-Search is a research essay to explore your topic and become an expert on your project, as well as to reflect on your research process. Unlike other research essays, the use of first person voice is permissible for I-Searches. This essay is as much about how you found your information as what you found.

Requirements:

- ❖ Length: 7 – 10 pages
- ❖ 7-10 research sources (Max. 2 “.com” sources, Min. 2 print sources)
- ❖ MLA style citations
- ❖ MLA style works cited page
- ❖ Double spaced
- ❖ No line breaks between paragraphs
- ❖ 1 inch margins on all sides
- ❖ Times New Roman font, 12 point size
- ❖ 1st person voice
- ❖ Title/Cover page
- ❖ Pages are numbered

The I-Search should be broken into the following sections:

Section #1 “What I know”

Suggested length: 1 to 2 paragraphs

In this section you will introduce your project and explain what you already know about it and why you chose it. Some of the information can be used from your proposal.

Section #2 “What I want to know”

Suggested length: At least 4 questions with reasonable hypotheses

Step 1: List questions you would like answered before you do the project. You must have at least 4 questions. These questions must be open-ended and require considerable research to answer. Avoid “Yes/No” questions, those with obvious answers, or those to which you already know the answer.

Section #3 “What I learned”

Suggested length: 5 to 8 pages

Think of this as telling the story of your research. Approximately half of what you write in this section should relate to the answers you found, and the other half should be an analysis of your sources: How did you find them? Are they reliable—how do you know?

List the name and bibliographical information of the article, book, website, interview, etc. Recount how you found this information. Begin your summary by explaining which hypothesis

the reading discussed. Is this source reliable—why or why not? Be sure to include your reactions to the information. Follow this format for your 7-10 sources.

REQUIREMENT: you may have no more than 2 (two) sources from “.com” websites (.org, .edu, etc are okay in any number).

REQUIREMENT: you must have at least 2 (two) print sources (books, magazines, library electronic databases, etc).

Section #4 “Theories & Implications”

Suggested length: 3 to 5 paragraphs

*In this section, you will turn your findings into theories.

* Discuss each of your research questions, adjusting it to fit the new information or even rewriting it. Explain how the research supports or contradicts your hypothesis. **Note: if your findings did not reveal anything you didn’t already know, you need to research a different question.**

*Now that you have theories, how does this knowledge affect your project?

*Do you need to change your project or adjust it in light of the new information?

*If not, how does the information enrich it?

*What implications do the theories have for others, for society?

Section #5 Works Cited Page

*All sources (7-10) used in this paper must be cited in alphabetical order. Follow MLA format. For more information on MLA format, consult your Monitor, your English Teacher, a librarian, or the JHS library web page http://schools.lwsd.org/JHS/library/mla_citation_format.htm

I-Search Example

NOTE: THIS EXAMPLE IS NOT COMPLETE!

This is just enough to get you started!

(required length: 7 to 10 pages with 7 to 10 sources)

The Coffee Shop Business

Section 1: What I Know

(Explain project...) For my project I will study the art of desserts and coffee and how the business works. I will be working with my mother on cooking many desserts and learning many styles of coffee, and I will use what I learn to create a cook book. Besides cooking, I will be studying the business aspect. This is very interesting to me as well because after I go through college I plan to open my own coffee and pastry café. The business side of my project will include start up costs, supply costs, advertising, hiring baristas and other pastry chefs, and location, location, location...

(Explain what you already know about it...) I don't know a lot about baking and making coffee...yet! I know how to make an espresso and hot coffee from the coffee maker but I would like to know a lot more about it. I know how to make a variety of cookies and a pie or two but I know there is so much more to learn. When I was in eighth or ninth grade I remember doing career day. One of the classes I took was a dessert class. I watched and listened carefully but didn't take any notes. When I got home I decided I was going to make the checkerboard short bread cookies that the baker made, without any recipe. I tried to remember as much as I could. In the end my cookies came out almost perfect. This is what made me want to be a pastry chef...

Section 2: What I Want to Know

- How many and what kinds of recipes will I use or need in my shop and are there easier or more difficult recipes?
 - I believe I will need possibly 21 different recipes for the pastries. I'm pretty sure that there aren't any recipes for certain coffee but I may be wrong. I want to vary the pastry recipes as well. I want some cakes and cookies and pastries. This will give my customers more of an option on what they want to go with their coffee. The more options that I make available will attract a wide ranged customer base. I

think that all the recipes I find for one product will all be the same. So there's no way to make it easier but there are simpler products to make.

- Why do most personally owned businesses fail?
 - My guess is that there are many reasons why personally owned businesses fail. My opinion on it is that the owner was not as prepared for the job at hand, and he didn't expect it to be as hard as everyone said. Another reason they might fail is because the owner did not successfully train his employees and didn't have the right experience to do so. Also, I think that business owners need to know how to manage people and a company.
- What kind of skills do I personally need to run a successful business?
 - Aside from baking skills, I think there are many skills a successful business manager needs to have mastered. I know that good people skills are a must because I will be dealing with customers. I will also be dealing with deliverers, suppliers, investors, lawyers and many other people to help me run a successful business.
- How can I successfully own my small business?
 - I think there are numerous ways to own a successful business. I may need a good lawyer, a good accountant, and a good business plan. I will need to learn many things and be completely prepared to start it up. I will face many problems as well as successes. I will need to deal with the ups and downs of owning my own business.

Section 3: What I Learned

Root, Hal, and Steve Koenig. The Small Business Start-Up Guide. 2nd ed. Naperville IL: Sourcebooks Inc, 2002.

In order to answer my questions about how to own my small business, I first looked in the arts and recreation section of the library. I was looking for a good book to answer my questions in depth. What this book told me was that there are “many in depth steps to starting my own business” (Root 83). I learned that I need to determine what service or product I am going to offer consumers. I need to determine in depth exactly what I want to offer. I also need to research my idea. I learned that there is a number of people I can write to for information and questions I need answered. I also learned that I need a business plan, no matter how small my business will

be. "A detailed business plan lines your start-up and the first six months to one year of operation" (Root 108) It will also include three to five to ten years down the road. This business plan is a blueprint to my success and I need to be careful and thorough in creating it. I will also need a lawyer and an accountant only for consultations on legal and tax issues. The best place to start is with business lawyers and accountants that know how to handle small businesses. I will also need to consult with a local SBA or SCORE office to provide me with further sources of government assistance. This source is reliable because in the back of the book they have many references and throughout the book there are numerous worksheets to fill out while going through the process. This source was created to guide people into the small business industry and help the success of a personally owned business, and it is produced by a reputable publisher which tells me that I can trust this source.

"What's Cooking America's Recipe Collection." What's Cooking America. 1993. Proquest. 9 Nov 2007 <<http://whatscookingamerica.net/>>.

In order to answer how many and what kinds of recipes I will use or need in my coffee shop I first looked through a couple of recipe books. When I found some of the recipes I wanted, I decided to search the internet for more. This website came up on the Proquest database from the list of Lake Washington School District senior high school databases. What this source told me is there are many different recipes for just one product. On this website I found several recipes for scones, such as the cranberry-orange scone made with real orange zest. I also found several recipes that produce the same product. I am guessing that cooking and deciding between which recipes to use is just trial and error. I found several recipes that I would like to use in my coffee shop. I found a recipe for cherry scones that "would appeal to cherry lovers in the northwest coast region" (What's Cooking). According to the website, if the scones are still warm they may help combat seasonal affective disorder. I also learned that you can freeze baked and unbaked scones. This will come in handy when doing prep in the morning and night time. I also found a recipe for a raspberry crème brulee. I think that this will go well with a hot cup of coffee and a good book in the later hours of the day. I also found a beignet recipe. I learned that these are just like doughnuts and they sell very well in New Orleans. One of the recipes I look forward to making the most is the cherry clafouti. This is a form of pudding cake, with cherries in it. This source is helpful because they have recipes of food that is found all over the world. I think it is

reliable because it includes the history behind each recipe as well as statistics from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Small Business Bureau of Washington State.

(Continue discussing each source until you have all 7 to 10 sources. Be sure to address each of your research questions over the course of your essay. Start each source discussion as a new sub-section.)

Section 4: Theories & Implications

For my question on why most personally owned businesses fail, I found that my guess was mostly right, but I did not know that a business plan had to be so extensive or that I would need to deal with so many different types of suppliers, retailers, and other business people. Therefore, I learned that developing a number of skills, such as sales and marketing skills, can help keep my business afloat when others sink...

(Repeat this analysis for all of your research questions. Compare what you guessed in section 2 to what you learned in section 3.)

I think now that I have finished the research I am going to focus more on the food aspect of it and less on the business aspect. After reading and researching I'm not quite sure if I really do want to open up a coffee shop. I know that there would be a lot of rewards to owning my business but I also now understand that there's a lot of stress and time and money involved.

For my final project I think that I will create a book with all of the recipes I want to have in my coffee shop and I will also include the business aspect of my research in my final project. Learning more about the business half showed me how big of a deal and how much I am getting into starting my own business. My questions really helped guide my research and I feel that I answered all of them to the best of my ability. My research showed me many things about owning a small business.

Section 5: Works Cited

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Young, Mildred. The Good Housekeeping Illustrated Book of Deserts. New York: Hearst Books, 1991.