

Student Name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____

TRINITY LUTHERAN ACADEMY

Social Studies Fair

Project Directions



Project Due: May 3, 2019
Social Studies Fair: May 10, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m.

March 1, 2019

Dear Parents,

Your child will be taking part in a Social Studies Fair homework project, an exciting event that encourages students to think like young social scientists. During the next few weeks your child will be designing a project that requires using both questioning and research skills. Completing the project will stimulate imagination and independent thinking, increase knowledge in many areas, enable the use of the research processes, help students in the organization and completion of major tasks, and provide children with an opportunity to enjoy a variety of social studies topics.

Trinity Lutheran Academy will Host a Night of the Arts and Social Sciences on May 10, 2019, in the Church Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. A timeline is attached to this packet of the project. The timeline serves as a reminder to students, as well as parents, of which part of the project is due and on what day. Each student will have to do a short oral presentation of their project to their teacher and classmates. Parents please review these packets with your child.

We ask that you monitor and encourage your child's progress. Your support is key to a successful project, but please do not allow your involvement to extend any further. In order to ensure equity and promote student learning, it is important that your child wrestle with problems and try to solve them. Guide your child wherever and whenever you can, but let the final project reflect your child's individual effort and design.

We have attached a step-by-step guide to help your child complete their project, and also a scoring sheet so the students can see what teachers are looking for in each category.

Students should write or type all information in their own words. Please do not include text that has been photocopied, or cut and pasted from websites etc.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Church by email at principal@tlaftl.org

Sincerely,
Trinity Lutheran Academy

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What is this Project?

This is a Social Studies project. So what, exactly, is Social Studies? Social Studies is the study of people and their impact and influence on the world.

Creating a project for a social studies fair may seem like a difficult task. Unlike a science fair, in which you conduct experiments, a social studies fair requires you to demonstrate knowledge of the world and other cultures. But there are ways to make creative, original and interesting projects based on history and society.

This Social Studies Fair is an exposition-type project. You will tell about something. You will do research to learn more about your topic. Research is a process by which people discover or create new knowledge about the world in which they live.

A social studies project uses the socio-scientific method:

- Topic Selection
- Develop a research question.
- Plan – what steps will be taken to answer the question.
- Gather information, research, investigate.
- Interpret findings, analyze data.
- Report conclusions.

You will **NOT** be solving a problem, or demonstrating how something works. You will be reporting on how something is or was.

For this project you will do three things:

- (1) Create a research report.
- (2) Create a display board.
- (3) Give an oral presentation of report to your class.

Six Categories of Social Studies

There are six major disciplines of Social Studies. Your project needs to fit into one of these disciplines. (*Note: “man” refers to all humans!*)

Sociology: Man Lives in Groups

Men live in groups because of social needs. However, living in groups requires certain skills and cooperation with, and among groups. People must adapt and change in order to maintain a healthy group dynamic.

Topics for this discipline would include family, crime, lifestyles, communication, genealogy, etc.

Geography: Man and Nature Intersect

Geography is the study of the relationship between the physical environment and human activities. Man must manage and properly use the natural environment, which can prove quite a challenge! Such management requires many opportunities, but it may also require some restrictions to man's activities in order to preserve the environment.

Topics for this discipline would include ecology, land use, maps, flooding, rivers, lakes, conservation, garbage control, pollution, city planning, etc.

Economic: Man Labors to Satisfy Human Wants

Economics is the study of the production and exchange of goods and services. Man has needs and wants and uses the natural environment to meet those needs/wants. He engages in the production of goods, increases his material wants by exchanging goods and services, and adjusts to the problems of ever-changing economic methods and organizations.

Topics for this discipline would include manufacturing, the stock market, inflation, budgets, the exchange rate, etc.

Anthropology: Culture is Developed by Men Living and Thinking Together

Anthropology is the study of human beings from pre-history to contemporary societies. Culture differs among people around the world. Each culture has its own stories, language, religions, and ways of looking at the world.

Topics for this discipline would include ancient civilizations, primitive civilizations, customs, religions, dress, festivals, literature, sports, etc.

History: The Stories of Man

The written story of man and civilizations.

Topics for this discipline would include historical events, trends, wars, politics, treaties, diplomacy, leaders, conflicts, elections, etc.

Political Science: Government Principles, Organization, and Methods

Society has established rules to govern human behavior in order to maintain order and fairness.

Topics for this discipline would include government agencies, the U.S. Constitution, court systems, national agencies, police, military, elections, political campaigns, etc.

Choosing a Topic

Once you've picked a category, you must choose a topic. You're going to be working on this project for a while, so pick a topic that interests you. If you are a sports fan, your topic could be about the ancient Olympic Games. If you have a passion for fashion, you could research the dress of another culture – historical or contemporary. The best way for a student to select a topic is to identify something about which they are curious.

Choosing a topic can be one of the most difficult parts of the project. The topic you choose can't be something that is too broad and general that your project goes all over the place, and it can't be something too narrow that you can't research it or find enough information.

Avoid topics that are limited. A report cannot be written on a topic that can be explained in a few words, sentences, or paragraphs.

Example: How many states are in the United States? (The answer is 50 – no research necessary!)

Better: What valuable resources are found in the southern states?

Example: What crops are grown in our country? (This can be answered with a list.)

Better: What is the economic impact of peanut production in our country?

Avoid topics that are too broad. A student cannot write a report on a topic that is too big to find all of the information.

Example: What happened during the Civil War?

Better: What was the role of Gettysburg during the Civil War?

Example: What happened during the Vietnam War?

Better: How did America become involved in the Vietnam War?

Avoid topics that have no available information.

Example: Why did Henry Hudson get into trouble with the crew on his ship?

We often do not know exactly why people did what they did in the past, and can't find any documented information to create a research paper.

Avoid topics that are confusing.

Example: What are the people of Japan like?

Better: What are the favorite sports of the people of Japan?
A comparison of Japanese and American women in sports competition.

Avoid topics that people cannot agree on. Topics must be supported by facts, not opinions.

Example: What's the most powerful country in the world?

Better: Why might Japan be one of the strongest economic powers worldwide?

Remember to research the top from a social studies viewpoint, rather than from a natural science topic. Your topic must be related to people and their impact and influence on the world.

Example: Nuclear power as a political issue rather than a "how it works".

Steps to Complete Your Project

1. Chose a category of Social Studies – one of the six disciplines. What interests you most?
2. Choose a topic. Make sure your topic is a Social Studies topic – not a science topic. What are you curious about? What would you like to learn more about? Develop a question.
3. Tell your teacher what your topic is. She will tell you if it is too broad, too narrow, not researchable, or good to go.

Don't go any further until your topic has been approved by your teacher. Once your topic has been approved by your teacher, go to Step 4.

4. Do research on your project. You have created a question – how are you going to answer that question? As you are researching your project and getting information, make sure you are documenting where you are getting the information so you can use it for your bibliography.
5. Once you've done your research, prepare an outline for organizing all of your information into a paper that flows well and makes sense. You will need to sift through all of the data that you've researched and decide what to use, and how to present it. What major points are you going to discuss from your research? What facts are you going to discuss to support those major points? You might not use everything that you've found, you might discover that you need to do more research about something to completely develop the idea. The outline that you created will help you direct the flow of information that you want to share with your reader.
6. Write the first draft of your research paper. The purpose of the paper is to answer the question that you created. It tells the story of your project.

The first paragraph of your paper should include an introduction. Tell about your topic, and why you chose it. Tell about some of information that you will be presenting. The next paragraphs of your paper will be the information that you researched. Your last paragraph should be a concluding statement.

Your research paper must be in your own words. You cannot copy chunks of information from a web site and copy and paste it into your document. You must rewrite and rephrase the information so that it is not word-for-word off a website. In high school and college, your instructors will run your papers through a search filter which will check your work against known documents on the internet. If it is found that too much of your paper is copied from web sites, your paper will be rejected and you will receive an "F". So now is the time to start learning not to plagiarize (taking someone else's work and claiming and using it for your own)!

7. Revise, edit, and proofread your draft. As you read it through, you might realize that a sentence that you put on page two might make more sense if you move it to a different paragraph on page one. You might decide that a sentence that you wrote doesn't really flow well with the rest of the paper and you take it out. You might realize that you didn't really explain something well enough and you need to do a little more research on something to make it clearer. Check for spelling errors. Check for grammar errors (run-on sentences, punctuation missing, incorrect verb tense, etc.) Have someone else read your draft. What makes total sense to you, because you wrote it and you know what it's supposed to say, might not make as much sense to someone else who reads it.
8. Prepare your bibliography. If you gathered this information as you did your research, this shouldn't be too difficult. It will just be a matter of putting it in the right format.

The bibliography should be in MLA format. There are several websites that can help with this. Here are a few:

<http://www.easybib.com/>
<http://www.bibme.org/>
<http://www.citationmachine.net/>
<http://www.citationcreation.com/>
<http://www.citefast.com/>

You should have at least three sources of information for your research project. Not all of your sources can be from the internet. At least one source must be from a book, a magazine, an encyclopedia, a newspaper, a government publication, an oral interview, or questionnaires. You may not use Wikipedia as a source of information. The only thing that Wikipedia may be used for is a place for ideas, or a springboard to other, more reputable websites.

9. Prepare the final copy of your research paper.
10. Choose a title for your project. The title should be short and descriptive. It should pique curiosity and spark an interest for the viewer so they want to learn more.
11. Create a cover page for your research paper.
12. Create a credit/acknowledgement page for your report. Give credit to anyone who assisted you on the project and explain how they helped you, and give thanks (do not just list names). The credit page should be in complete sentences in a paragraph format.
13. Sketch out a design for your display board. Decide where items should be placed.
14. Create your display board. Make it visually appealing.
15. Turn your project in!

Outline (5th through 8th Grade Only)

Taking the time to draft an outline can help you determine if your ideas connect to each other, what order of ideas works best, where gaps in your thinking and research may exist, or whether you have sufficient evidence to support each of your points.

An outline is important because:

- You will be much less likely to get writer's block. An outline will show where you're going and how to get there.
- It will help you stay organized and focused throughout the writing process and help ensure good flow of ideas in your paper. However, the outline should be viewed as a guide, not a straitjacket. As you review the data you've gathered, the organization of your paper may change; adjust your outline accordingly.
- The outline can be key to staying motivated. You can put together an outline when you're excited about the project and everything is clicking; making an outline is never as overwhelming as sitting down and beginning to write a five page paper without any sense of where it is going or how to start.

Outline Format

- I. Opening Paragraph (Introduction, Purpose of Research Paper)
- II. Main Idea
 - A. Supporting Idea
 1. Details
 2. Details
 - B. Supporting Idea
 1. Details
 2. Details
- III. Main Idea
 - A. Supporting Idea
 1. Details
 2. Details
 - B. Supporting Idea
 1. Details
 2. Details
- IV. Main Idea
 - A. Supporting Idea
 1. Details
 2. Details
 - B. Supporting Idea
 1. Details
 2. Details
- V. Conclusion Paragraph (Summary of Main Ideas and Research)

Outline Example:

What is a Presidential Library?

Thesis: A presidential library is a time capsule that one can visit, and when you leave, you know more about the man himself and our country during the years that he was president.

- I. Introduction
- II. History
- III. Presidents
 - A. Roosevelt
 - B. Kennedy
 - C. Eisenhower
- IV. Components
 - A. Documents
 - B. Donations
 - C. Papers
 1. Political
 2. Military
 - D. Audio-Visuals
 - E. Heirlooms
 1. Furniture
 2. Artwork
 - F. Gifts
 1. Friends
 2. Foreign Dignitaries
- V. Importance
- VI. Conclusion

Research Paper

Length of Paper:

- 3rd and 4th grades 2 pages
- 5th and 6th grades 3 pages minimum
- 7th and 8th grades 5 pages minimum

Papers for 3rd and 4th grades may be handwritten. Handwriting must be clean and neat, no cross outs.

Papers for 5th through 8th grades must be typed.

- 12 point font (Times New Roman or Arial)
- 1" margins
- Spacing of 1.5 or 2.0

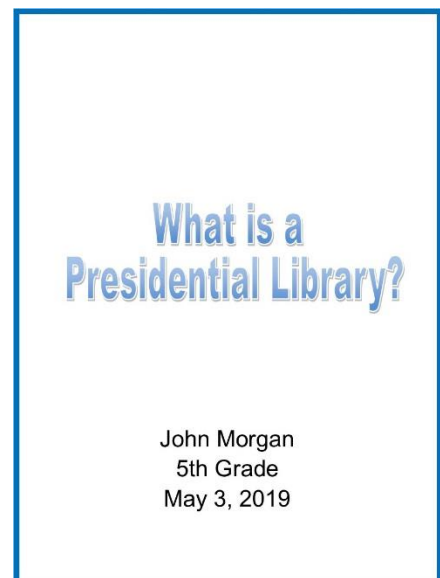
Page numbers should be in the bottom right-hand corner of each page.

Pages should be placed in this order:

- ❖ Title Page
- ❖ Outline (5th through 8th Grade)
- ❖ Research Report
- ❖ Bibliography
- ❖ Credits/Acknowledgements

The title page has the name of the project – the same project name that is on the display board. It should be centered on the page, both horizontally and vertically. Below the title should be the student's name, the student's grade, and the date the project is due.

It can include graphics or decorations.



Display Board

Each project must have a display board.

The size of the board is 36" x 48", tri-fold. The boards can be solid white or it can be a colored board. You will find the boards for sale at stores such as Walmart, Office Depot, Office Max, Michaels, Hobby Lobby, A.C.Moore, and ACE Educational Store.

English is read from left to right, top to bottom – so should the layout of the text and sections of the board. There must be some type of logical flow to the information. Arrange the information and visuals in a clear and meaningful pattern.

Use a large enough font to be easily read on the typed and written portions. Be careful that what you have placed on the board is correct (grammar and spelling).

Add graphs, charts, and pictures to display your research data.

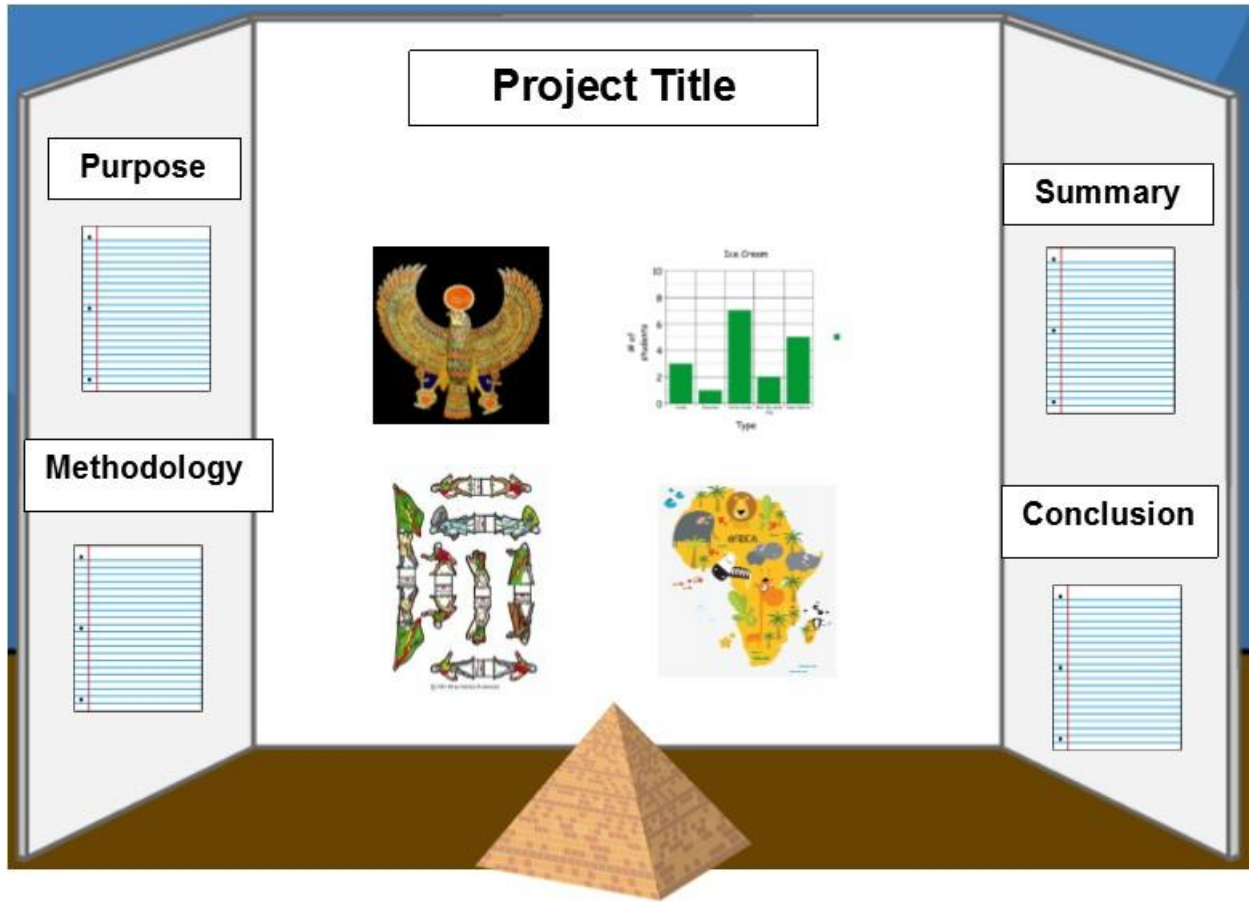
Decorate your board – be creative! You can decorate it with fabric, felt, cut out letters, etc. You can glue decorative elements onto the board. (Anything you glue on, make sure it is glued on very well. The weight of items glued to a board tend to make them fall off the board after a while, and if it's on the ground instead of on the board the viewers won't get the full effect.)

You can add display items that sit on the table in front of your display board. You can build a model, have an example of a food dish, create a mask for people to try on – anything to let the viewer see and explore your topic – not just read about it.

Required elements that must be on the display board:

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project Title | Same title as on your research paper. |
| Statement of Purpose | You should place a clear statement of the question that you researched. Also include why you choose your topic. |
| Statement of Methodology | How did you research your project? What was done to find the information? |
| Summary | A summary paragraph for the reader that explains what you found in your research. |
| Visuals to Illustrate the Topic | Pictures, charts, graphs, maps, etc. |
| Conclusion to the Question Researched | This can be taken directly from the conclusion of the research paper. |

Example of a display board layout:



Oral Report

As part of this Social Studies project, you will be presenting an oral report to the members of your class.

You will write out the information you present to the class on index cards. The index cards can be any size or color, lined or blank – your choice. Be sure to number your cards in case you drop them so you can put them back in order! You will turn these notecards in to your teacher after your presentation.

Include the following items in your oral presentation:

- ❖ The category of your topic.
- ❖ The topic you chose.
- ❖ Why you chose the topic.
- ❖ The question that you asked in your research paper.
- ❖ A summary of the information you presented in your research paper.
- ❖ Explain what you learned from researching this project, and how it affected you/or will affect you (*changed your thinking, made you more aware of something, etc.*)

As you make your oral presentation, you will also be graded on the following:

- **Pace** – Don't speak too quickly, and don't speak too slowly. Try not to giggle even though you're nervous. Try not to say things like "Um", "Like", or "You know" while you're speaking.
- **Volume and Voice Quality** – Speak clearly so that you can be understood, and at a volume loud enough for your audience to hear. Don't mumble!
- **Audience Contact** – Look at your audience from time to time. Don't always look at your note cards. Look up and make eye contact with your fellow students as you speak.
- **Appearance** – Stand straight, don't sway back and forth. Don't fidget. Don't play with your hair. Don't put your hands in your pockets.

The best way to prepare for this oral report is to practice. Practice alone (a lot), then practice in front of a mirror, then practice in front of a friend or family member. Be familiar with the words on your note cards. You're going to be nervous – the more you practice and know your material, the better you will do.

Project Timeline

1. Submit topic choice to your teacher by **March 15, 2019**.

The sooner you get this done the better. If your teacher doesn't approve your topic, you must submit another topic. You cannot begin your research until your teacher approves your topic!

2. Begin researching as soon as your topic has been approved.
3. Create your outline to organize your research. Turn your outline into your teacher by **April 5, 2019** (*does not apply to 3rd and 4th grades*).
4. Start your first draft of your research paper. Turn this first draft of your paper into your teacher by **April 18, 2019**.
5. Work on the final draft of your research paper. Create your report cover.
6. Begin the organization of your display board. To keep on track, you should have your plan made and your supplies purchased by **April 12, 2019**.
7. Completely finish your research paper, including cover page, bibliography, and credit acknowledgement.
8. Begin working on your display board.
9. Turn in your completed report and display board on **May 3, 2019**.
10. Oral reports will be given in the classroom on **May 3, 2019**.
11. The projects will be displayed at the Social Studies Fair on **May 10, 2019**.

Tips for Parents/Guardians

Long-term projects such as the Social Studies Fair project will require parental involvement. Remember your role is to encourage and assist your child. If the social studies project is to be a true learning experience, it is important that the student does the work. It's easy to "take over" the project when helping and then the project becomes more yours than your child's.

1. Go over all information regarding the social science project with your child. If you have any questions, contact the teacher.
2. Help your child choose a topic and be supportive of his or her final decision.
3. Allow your child time for thinking, exploring and preparing his or her project. Ask questions: Where are we now with your project? What did you do today on your project? What's due next? When is it due? How can I assist you?
4. To assist your child:
 - Drive him or her to the library.
 - Provide suggestions for sources of information.
 - Help to create and compile surveys (if needed).
 - Help to arrange interviews (if needed).
 - Proofread and revise letters requesting information or materials (if needed).
 - Gather printed materials related to your child's project.
 - Make suggestions for the display board design (parents may assist with measuring, cutting, pasting, hot gluing and placement). Artwork should be the work of the student.
 - Type project backboard information and report from the child's handwritten final draft. Help with spelling, grammar, sentence structure, etc.
 - Guide him/her through the use of difficult computer programs (generating graph, charts, tables etc.).
 - Reinforce project guidelines established by the teacher.
5. Proofread all material.
6. Help your child deliver project to and from school.
7. Celebrate the success of your child in completing the project. Winning a prize is not the only success. Completing a task on time and navigating the research process is a major success!



Social Studies Fair Project Rubric

| Category / Criteria and Standards | | Total Possible Score | Score Awarded |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Timeline Requirements | Submitted topic on time. | 2 | |
| | Submitted outline on time. <i>(Not Applicable for Grades 3-4)</i> | 2 | |
| | Submitted first draft of research paper on time. | 3 | |
| | Submitted final, completed paper and board on time. | 3 | |
| | Timeline Total | 10 | |
| Research Paper | Title page that follows the correct format. | 2 | |
| | Outline included in submission, properly formatted. <i>(Not Applicable for Grades 3-4)</i> | 3 | |
| | Research paper is the required length. | 3 | |
| | Paper is free of spelling, mechanical, or grammatical errors. | 5 | |
| | Font, spacing, and margins as required. | 3 | |
| | Clean, neat handwriting (3-4), typed (5-8). | 3 | |
| | Page numbers are placed in the lower right-hand corner. | 2 | |
| | Paper follows outline. <i>(Not Applicable for Grades 3-4)</i> | 3 | |
| | Paper is organized in a logical sequence, information flows smoothly. | 3 | |
| | Content has grade-appropriate vocabulary, seems to be worded and created by student - not copied from a source, answers the question student researched. | 12 | |
| | Includes a bibliography with at least 3 correctly formatted entries. | 3 | |
| | Credits/Acknowledgement page that follows the correct format. | 3 | |
| Research Paper Total | 45 | | |
| Display Board | Board is correct size 36" x 48", trifold. | 2 | |
| | Board includes project title. | 2 | |
| | Board includes statement of purpose. | 2 | |
| | Board includes state of methodology. | 2 | |
| | Board includes summary. | 2 | |
| | Board includes conclusion to the question researched. | 3 | |
| | Visuals were added to the board - pictures, charts, graphs, maps, etc. | 4 | |
| | The board was attractively decorated. | 3 | |
| Display Board Total | 20 | | |
| Oral Report | Stated category of topic. | 2 | |
| | Stated chosen topic. | 2 | |
| | Stated why they chose the project. | 2 | |
| | Stated the question asked in the research paper. | 2 | |
| | Gave a thorough summary of information reported in research paper. | 7 | |
| | Explained what they learned from researching the project, and how it did, or will, affect them. | 2 | |
| | Pacing of presentation. | 2 | |
| | Volume and voice quantity. | 2 | |
| | Audience contact. | 2 | |
| | Appearance. | 2 | |
| | Oral Report Total | 25 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | 100 | |

Social Studies Fair



Research Topic

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Category: _____
(Which of the six disciplines?)

Topic: _____

Research Question: _____
