



# MY AUTHOR STUDY RESEARCH PROJECT

A Step-by-Step Guide

KENNETT MIDDLE SCHOOL  
Sixth Grade Project

Written by  
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2016-2017



## **Author Study Research Project**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period for Mrs. Anderson \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period for Mrs. Lancaster \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period for Mrs. Wake \_\_\_\_\_

### **Project Description:**

During Library class on Monday's, you will be researching an author of children/or young adult books. You must receive permission for the author you choose from Mrs. Johnson. You will be given a specific amount of time in which to gather your research. So using your time wisely is very important.

You will focus your attention on one author and explore the life and books of that particular author. You will not have to read the book(s) of the author you choose.

Remember the KMS Library is open each morning at 7:30 a.m. and after school until 4:00 p.m. (except on Friday's). You may come in to research when you have free time even during the school day.

Once you have gathered your information, then you will create a Google Slideshow. The information in your packet will be the information for your Google Slideshow. Your Google Slideshow will be no more than 15 slides. Have fun!

**Identify your Author:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_



Evaluation



Task Definition



Information Seeking Strategies

***Big 6™  
Research  
Process***



Synthesis



Location and Access



Use of Information

Before you begin your Google Slideshow, you must conduct research and find information on your author that you chose. Identify some key words, terms, names, dates, etc., to help you locate information about your author. When searching for information on your author's life, type in ***name biography, interview with name, name blog, name birthdate, name death, name married, name hobbies, name books, name book awards, name genre, etc.***

## **CATEGORIES FOR RESEARCH**

Research the following questions about your author.

Find as much information as you can.

The more you find the better off you will be.

### **Personal information about the author**

#### **LIFE/CHILDHOOD**

1. Is the author married or single?
2. Author's family – mom, dad, brothers/sisters, grandparents, etc.
3. Date of birth and/or date of death of the author?
4. Place of birth and/or death?
5. Where did the author get their education?
6. What education level did the author obtain?
7. If the author is alive, where do they live?
8. Does the author have any children?
9. Does the author have any hobbies?

**Books:**

10. What genre does the author write?



11. What age group are the books intended for?

12. How many books have been written?

13. Has the author won any book awards?

14. Are there any other interesting details about your author?

## **Author Study Research Project Rubric**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period for \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Anderson \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Lancaster \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Wake \_\_\_\_\_

	<b><u>Points Possibl e</u></b>	<b><u>Score &amp; Comments</u></b>
<b>TIMELINE OF EVENTS in SlideShow</b>		
<b>Picture of Author (with citation)</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Author's Name in BOLD</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Chronological order</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>10 significant events (including date of birth/death)</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>At least 3 book images included in biography</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>At least 3 images included (does not include picture of author)</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>WORKS CITED</b>		
<b>All book images cited (3 points each)</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>All other images cited (3 points each)</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>Correct citations (2 points each)</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>AUTHOR REFLECTION</b>		
<b>Paragraph – typed on last slide</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>SLIDESHOW</b>		
<b>Use of Graphics - Attractive and not distracting by use of Fonts, Font size, colors, etc.</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>NOTE TAKING SHEETS for 15 slides (2.5 points each)</b>	<b>30</b>	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:</b>		

## **AUTHOR REFLECTION:**

You will need to write an author reflection paragraph and in that paragraph answer the following questions:

1. What was the most interesting thing I learned from this project?
2. What was the hardest thing to do for this project?
3. On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the best, how would you rate your work? Tell why you gave yourself that score.

LENGTH: 5-8 sentences (5 points)

You will need to use proper mechanics with spelling, grammar, capitalization, punctuation, etc.

## **TAKING NOTES AND CITING YOUR SOURCES AS YOU RESEARCH**

When you gather information for research as a part of any project or writing, you must show where you found the material you are using or “borrowing.” This material might be facts, opinions, quotations, pictures, etc. Regardless of what it is, you must acknowledge your sources.

PLEASE NOTE: Google and Bing etc. are **not** sources; they are search engines. The source is the site these search engines bring up for you to use.

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When you find information that you might want to use in your paper, record it on your note-taking sheet. These sheets will help you track where you found your information and save time!

1. From each source, write on only the note-taking sheet from that source.
2. On every note-taking sheet identify the source from which the notes come. Beside each note, write the page # from which the notes come. If you do not do this now, you will be wasting your time to go back later and do it!
3. Identify the topic/idea of each note by identifying each bullet point with a slug. A slug is a word or phrase that tells you at a glance what is contained in that note. For example: “Rescue Attempts” “Survivor Testimony” “Statistics on Deaths.” You may have many notes with the same **slug** but from different sources. That is good research. Adding the slug now will prevent you from having to reread every note later to determine where it belongs in your paper. **Slugs go next to each note on your sheet.**

## EXAMPLE OF NOTE-TAKING SHEET

### Original Passage:

I've always felt that I was fortunate to have been born the middle child of three. My older sister, Helen, was very much like our mother: gentle, family-oriented, eager to please. Little brother Jon was the only boy and had interests that he shared with Dad; together they were always working on electric trains and erector sets; and later, when Jon was older, they always seemed to have their heads under the raised hood of a car. That left me in-between, and exactly where I wanted most to be: on my own. I was a solitary child who lived in the world of books and my own vivid imagination.

*From [http://www.loislowry.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=67&Itemid=196](http://www.loislowry.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=67&Itemid=196)*

## EXAMPLE OF WEB PAGE CITATION

**Author's Last Name, First Name. "Website Title." Date you found the website and information, domain name of website. Web.**

*From [http://www.loislowry.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=67&Itemid=196](http://www.loislowry.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=67&Itemid=196)*

**So the above information was found on the webpage listed above. Here is the Web Page Citation that I will put on my note-taking sheet and in my SLIDESHOW:**

**Lowry, Lois. "Biography." 26 Oct. 2016, <http://www.loislowry.com>. Web.**



# NOTE-TAKING SHEET

Author (last name, first): \_\_\_\_\_

Website Title in quotation marks: \_\_\_\_\_

Domain Name of website: \_\_\_\_\_

Medium of Publication: Web

Date you found the website and information: \_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_ year

Citation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## NOTES FROM THIS SOURCE

SLUG

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