



Research Project Calculator

Name: Not specified
Class: Not specified
Email: Not specified
Format: Essay

Starting on: 10/27/2007
Assignment due: 11/10/2007
You have 13 days to finish.
Good luck on your research project!

Email just this page
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Step 1: Question

- What do you know about your assignment?
- What do you know about your topic?
- What do you want to know?
- What's the question or problem you will focus on?

By *Sunday Oct 28, 2007*

Write a specific research question or hypothesis.

Step 1 teacher information

- About the Research Project Calculator
- What do you want them to learn?
- What instructions have you prepared for your student?
- How do you get the student to move from a topic to a question?

By *Sunday Oct 28, 2007*

Write guidelines and draft rubric for the evaluation of the project. Reserve labs and ensure access to necessary software and hardware.

Review each student's research question or tentative hypothesis.

Research Project Calculator Plus

On, or about, November 12th, the new *Research Project Calculator* will debut.

The bad news is that for your last minute researchers, it still says, "You have less than one day to get this done. I hope you're just playing with this thing" if you have less than 24 hours to start and finish a project!

But there's lots of good news! The new RPC includes a whole new addition, designed to help you and your teachers plan research projects. Lots of tips and extras are included, including handouts, in both Word and PDF format so that can be printed and used as it or modified to your special situations. Here's list of the extras:

- **Exercises**

The exercises build skills to prepare students to navigate the research process. Think of the exercises as "dribbling" practice—basketball players do not become proficient in the game without time spent in repetition of basic skills such as dribbling the ball. Use these exercises to develop the necessary skills for your students to be champion researchers!

- **Tip sheets**
Tips sheets provide you with a basic introduction to information resources and technologies.
- **Guiding questions**
The guiding questions serve as an information literacy script—offering questions that teachers frequently ask students in the research process.
- **No time? Suggestions for condensing each step**
For the busy teacher these suggestions maintain the integrity of the process, but require less classroom time.
- **Standards**
State and national content area and information and technology literacy standards related to the research process.

Also, the new calculator will send reminder emails! Students can enter an email address and receive either a copy of the first generated page or they can opt to receive periodic email reminders for each step of the project.

To access the teacher information, complete the form, selecting a target communication format (essay, slide presentation or video) and enter dates. Be sure to check:

Include teacher information

The calculator will then present the teacher and student information side by side, like a typical teacher’s manual displays an inset of the student page surrounded by tips for the teacher. The excellent programmer, Michael Berkowski, MINITEX, did the programming to make this happen (and added new colors and graphical elements.)

The original and redo of the *Research Project Calculator* has been sponsored by MINITEX, Bill DeJohn, Director. The calculator is based on the original *Assignment Calculator* developed by the University of Minnesota. Leslie Yoder, St. Paul Schools, and I collaborated on the content. Teacher review was provided by Paul Preimesburger, Robbinsdale Area Schools, and Deborah Kozak, St. Paul Schools. Clerical assistance was provided by Alida Adams, Robbinsdale. Doug Johnson, Mankato Schools, gave us permission to reproduce articles. Many other resources and web sites are linked in the RPC, including the pages hosted by Metronet, Ann Walker Smalley, Director. These pages link to more “dribbling” exercises for the research process that have been created by many organizations across the web and were assembled by Karen Eidem, Metronet Information Literacy Project Intern.

We hope the RPC will help to empower you and your teachers as you empower your students. Perhaps you can help them to see that starting the process early, and taking a step at a time, will make them champion researchers. Not only will they have excellent products, they will come to class on the due date both confident and well-rested!

You can see the new version now, but don’t expect it to work perfectly until about November 12.

rpc.elm4you.org

Jane Prestebak, Robbinsdale Area Schools