INDEPENDENT RESEARCH
PROJECT PACKET

Student Name
RESEARCH PROJECT CHECKLIST

☐ Choose a research topic

☐ Conduct background research on your topic using secondary sources

☐ Conduct research on your topic using primary sources

☐ Take notes on and collect citations for your sources

☐ Form a research question

☐ Narrow or broaden your research topic as needed

☐ Conduct more research on your topic analyzing primary and secondary sources

☐ Take more notes on and collect citations for your sources

☐ Develop a thesis statement

☐ Write out supporting evidence for your thesis statement

☐ Select the primary and secondary sources that you will showcase in your research project to support your thesis

☐ Write a rough draft of your essay
  ○ Your thesis (a claim), plus your counterclaim
  ○ Explanations of each of your pieces of supporting evidence
  ○ Captions for the primary and secondary sources you selected

☐ Write your annotated bibliography: collect your citations, and annotate each one

☐ Write the final draft of your essay

☐ Lay out the visual component of your research project, taking care to think about how the visual and artistic elements support your thesis and illustrate your topic
CHOOSE A RESEARCH TOPIC
What topic interests you? Why are you interested in this topic? What questions do you have about this topic?

The topic I am interested in is:

________________________________________________________________________

I am interested in this topic because:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Three questions I have about my topic are:

1.________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2.________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3.________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
RESEARCH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES

A primary source is:
- A document from the time that your topic took place
- A first-hand account
- Examples include:
  - personal correspondence and diaries
  - works of art and literature
  - speeches and oral histories
  - audio and video recordings
  - photographs
  - advertisements
  - laws and legislative hearings
  - census or demographic records
  - plant and animal specimens
  - ephemera, such as tickets, invitations, menus, brochures
  - autobiographies

A secondary source is:
- A source that provides interpretation, commentary, or analysis
- A second-hand account
- Often based on primary sources
- Examples include:
  - textbooks
  - dictionaries
  - encyclopedias
  - biographies
  - topic expert, such as a historian or professor

Both a primary and secondary source:
- Some sources can be both depending upon who created the source when.
- Examples include:
  - newspaper/magazine/journal article ...
    - primary source: contemporary news events; first-hand account
    - secondary source: milestone commemorations; historical overviews; a second-hand account
  - documentary film ...
    - primary source: footage from the time; interview from someone who experienced the topic first-hand
    - secondary source: topic expert or second-hand source interview
  - non-fiction text ...
    - primary source: original research, historical findings or information
    - secondary source: commentary or analysis about a topic the author didn’t experience first-hand
**MIND MAP BRAINSTORM**

Brainstorm the subtopics associated with your topic (add more bubbles if needed). Subtopics are smaller themes found within main topics. For example, if your topic is Brownsville, subtopics could include: residents, geography, events, landmarks and community issues.
ORGANIZE YOUR RESEARCH

TIMELINE
Creating a timeline for your topic helps contextualize it in history and keep your research organized. List five important dates associated with your research topic and an explanation on why the date is important:
PRE-INTERNET RESEARCH GAME PLAN

You need to have a game plan before starting your internet research if you want to find relevant and reliable information easily.

Topic:

______________________________

Three questions I have about my research topic:

1. _______________________________________________________________________

2. _______________________________________________________________________

3. _______________________________________________________________________

Five keywords I can search to find answers to my questions online:

1. _______________________________________________________________________

2. _______________________________________________________________________

3. _______________________________________________________________________

4. _______________________________________________________________________

5. _______________________________________________________________________

Combine your keywords to make three keyword “strings.”

1. _______________________________________________________________________

2. _______________________________________________________________________

3. _______________________________________________________________________

Write the web address of a website that answered your question:

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
USING THE BROOKLYN COLLECTION ONLINE

What is the Brooklyn Collection?
We are an archive that documents the history of our borough. Our books, clipping files, maps, photographs, electronic resources and other materials bear witness to the ongoing life of Brooklyn.

Accessing the Brooklyn Collection online
Much of our archive is not digitized. However, you can learn about our collections, and view some of them, through our website.
1. Go to www.bklynlibrary.org
2. Click on Learn located on the upper left, and select Brooklyn Collection (it’s near the bottom of the list that appears)

What can I do here?
• On the main Brooklyn Collection page, you can click Digital Collections tab on the menu bar to search digitized photographs, maps and postcards.
• Choose the Resources tab on the menu bar in the center of the page. This provides links to Databases, including Brooklyn Newsstand (historic newspapers, including those from Brooklyn schools – nifty!)
• Choose Collections and scroll partway down; click on Collection Guides to see all of our Finding Aids

What is a Collection Guide?
A collection guide (also known as a “finding aid”) is a description of records in an archival collection. One archive has many finding aids – one for each of its collections. A collection guide helps researchers understand what material is in the archive’s collections, and how they can access it.
TRUSTWORTHY INTERNET RESOURCES

Brooklyn Visual Heritage: http://www.brooklynvisualheritage.org

Chronicling America: https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

Digital Public Library of America: dp.la

Digitized Harper’s Weekly: www.harpweek.com

Heritage NY: https://nyheritage.org/

Library of Congress: loc.gov

National Archives: http://www.archives.gov

New York State Archives: http://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/

Brooklyn Historical Society: http://brooklynhistory.org

Museum of the City of New York Collections: http://collections.mcny.org

New York Historical Society Collection: http://www.nyhistory.org

New York Public Library: http://www.nypl.org

Online Resources Accessible only at Brooklyn Public Library =
Click on the Learn tab on the bklynlibrary.org website for access

Ancestry: Genealogical research for over 1.5 billion names in more than 4000 databases: census data, military and birth records, social security index, passenger lists.


JSTOR: Scholarly journals from many disciplines.

Project Muse: Comprehensive full-text access to indexed and peer reviewed humanities and social sciences journals.
ASSESSING A WEBSITE

Website Title:

Website Address/URL:

What clues does the URL give?

- Company (.com)
- Government (.gov)
- Educational (.edu)
- Nonprofit (.org)
- Country-Specific (eg., .uk or .ca)

What is the purpose of this website?

- A personal web page
- A company or organization web page
- An educational or research website
- A web page for sharing ideas, opinions, or points of view
- Other: ________________________________

Does this website provide:

- mostly facts
- mostly opinions
- a mix of both

Can you identify the author?

- Yes
- No

Can you find the website or author’s qualifications or expertise?

Does the website or author seem like an expert about this topic?
Rate the website using the following criteria on a scale from 1 to 10.

A. Is the information relevant to my research question?

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B. Is the information up-to-date (i.e. no date = NO)?

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C. Is the website well-maintained (i.e. broken links = NO)?

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D. Does the website look professional?

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E. Is the information well written (i.e. no spelling mistakes)?

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F. Is the information objective and unbiased?

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<td>YES</td>
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</table>

Summarize the information presented on this website in your own words:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

FINAL VERDICT: Is this website useful to your research? Why or why not?
EXAMINING SOURCES
Take time to examine your each of your sources so you can answer the following questions completely.

What type of document is the source you’ve chosen?

__________________________

Fill in the following citation information about your source:

1. Title:

__________________________

2. Author:

__________________________

3. Date:

__________________________

Describe in detail what the source tells you:

__________________________

__________________________

__________________________

Is your document giving you facts, opinions or both? How do you know?

__________________________

__________________________

__________________________

List three things you learned from your source:

1.

__________________________

2.

__________________________

3.

__________________________
HOW TO WRITE A GOOD RESEARCH QUESTION

Below are poorly written research questions. Practice writing strong research questions by fixing them to make them *clear, focused,* and *arguable.* Use strong words to make your question more complex: *cause, effect, compare, impact, change, influence.*

Did Jackie Robinson play for the Brooklyn Dodgers?

Why is Brooklyn the best borough in NYC?

What are the causes of gentrification in Brooklyn?

Write two possible research questions for your project:

1. 

2. 
CRAFT YOUR OWN RESEARCH QUESTION

Write three general questions you have about your topic:

1.

2.

3.

Increase the complexity of ONE of the above questions, to make a good research question. Use words like cause, effect, compare, impact, change, influence.


Write three sub-questions based on your main research question below. These should be questions that will help you find the answer to your research question.

1.

2.

3.
CRAFT A STRONG THESIS STATEMENT

A thesis statement explains to the reader what your project or essay seeks to prove. You can create a strong thesis statement by altering your research question.

State your research question (i.e. Did the Brooklyn Bridge’s construction drastically alter the population of Brooklyn?):

Make a claim (i.e. YES, building the Brooklyn Bridge did drastically alter Brooklyn’s population):

Turn your research question into a thesis statement (i.e. Did The Brooklyn Bridge’s construction drastically altered Brooklyn’s population by...):

List the evidence you will highlight in your thesis statement (i.e. providing access to the borough for Manhattan’s immigrants, spurring economic growth and making Brooklyn more accessible for those working and living in Manhattan):

Write your thesis statement (i.e. The Brooklyn Bridge’s construction drastically altered Brooklyn’s population by providing access to the borough for Manhattan’s immigrants, spurring economic growth, and making Brooklyn more accessible for those working and living in Manhattan):
**TERM KEY:**

**What is a “Title of container?”**
The “Title of Container” refers to if the source is PART of a larger WHOLE – i.e. an article in a journal, a web page on a website, an essay in a book.

**Who could “Other contributors” be?**
“Other contributors” refers to any other editors, producers, directors who also should be cited.

**What is the “Version?”**
The “Version” refers to when the source used is a particular edition such as: the Second Edition of a book or the Director’s Cut of a movie.

**What is the “Number?”**
The “Number” refers to sources with important numbers such as journal volumes, issue numbers, episode numbers, and page numbers.

**What is the “Location?”**
The “Location” refers to where the source was published (i.e. New York, NY; London, UK)
# Find the Core Elements

Find the following information for each of your sources:

1. **Author:**

2. **Title of Source:**

3. **Title of Container:**

4. **Other Contributors:**

5. **Version:**

6. **Number:**

7. **Publisher:**

8. **Publication Date:**

9. **Location:**
### CITATION GUIDE

#### MLA (Modern Language Association) Format

#### Book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author’s Last Name, First Name.</th>
<th>Title of Book.</th>
<th>Publisher, Year Published.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Note:** If a book has more than one author: __________________________, __________________________ and __________________________ and __________________________.

Author A Last Name, Author A First Name and Author B First Name and Author B Last Name.

#### Reference Book (Encyclopedia/Dictionary)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“Title of Section/Chapter.”</th>
<th>Title of Book.</th>
<th>Edition (i.e. 3rd ed.), Publisher, Year Published.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Periodical (Newspaper/Magazine/Journal)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author’s Last Name, First Name.</th>
<th>“Title of Article.”</th>
<th>Name of Periodical, Day Month Year Published, Page number(s).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Website/URL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author Last Name, First Name.</th>
<th>“Name of Section.”</th>
<th>Website/URL Name. Day Month Year Published,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Photograph/Print

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artist’s Last Name, First Name.</th>
<th>Title of Work. Year Produced.</th>
<th>Institution who owns the photograph/print.</th>
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</table>

#### Ephemera/Map

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner/Author’s Last Name, First Name.</th>
<th>Title of Ephemera/Map. Year Produced.</th>
<th>Institution who owns the ephemera/map.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Looking for more information on how to cite? Check out Easybib.com or Purdue Owl at https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/**
WRITE YOUR CITATIONS
Using the format on the opposite page, write out a citation for each of your sources, using the correct format. Don’t forget the punctuation! If there are other details that you need in order to write your citation properly (for example, a magazine article requires both the title of the article and of the magazine), don’t forget to look at your source again.

SOURCE 1:

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

SOURCE 2:

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

SOURCE 3:

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

SOURCE 4:

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________
**WORKS CITED PAGE**

The Works Cited page appears at the end of your project or essay and lists all the sources you used in your research.

**Formatting Notes:**
- Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your research paper.
- Label the page Works Cited (do not italicize the words Works Cited or put them in quotation marks) and center the words Works Cited at the top of the page.
- Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.
- Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations

**Works Cited:**


*English Kills.* 194-. Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn Public Library.


*Newtown Creek.* 1904. Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn Public Library.


**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Annotated bibliographies include a note at the end of each citation describing the source and explaining how your source was used and how it helped your research.

**Step 1: Write your citation**


**Step 2: Summarize, assess & reflect**

Daisy Bates was the president of the Arkansas NAACP and an activist and journalist who played a leading role in the Little Rock integration crisis of 1957. This firsthand account is important to my research, because it talks about the feelings and experiences of the people directly involved.

**Step 3: Put it all together**


Daisy Bates was the president of the Arkansas NAACP and an activist and journalist who played a leading role in the Little Rock integration crisis of 1957. This firsthand account is important to my research, because it talks about the feelings and experiences of the people directly involved.

**SOURCE 1:**

[Blank]
PROJECT ORGANIZER

You’re ready to put together your final research project once you have all completed the below items:

Research Topic:

________________________________________________________________________

Research Question:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Thesis Statement:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Evidence to support the claim made by your thesis statement (at least 5):

1. 

________________________________________________________________________

2. 

________________________________________________________________________

3. 

________________________________________________________________________

4. 

________________________________________________________________________

5. 

________________________________________________________________________

Are there any counterclaim(s) that can be made against your claim? If so, explain how you plan to acknowledge and refute them:

________________________________________________________________________

ESSAY OUTLINE
You do not have to use full sentences on this worksheet and you don’t have to complete this form in order. Don’t have an opening sentence in mind? Skip to the next part and come back later.

INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH:

1. Introductory Sentence *(hook sentence)*:

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

2. Thesis statement *(state your claim and evidence)*:

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

3. Transition Sentence:

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

BODY PARAGRAPH 1:

1. Evidence #1 in support of the claim you made in your thesis:

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

2. How does evidence #1 support your claim?

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________
3. Conclusion or Transition:


BODY PARAGRAPH 2:

1. Evidence #2 in support of the claim you made in your thesis:


2. How does evidence #2 support your claim?


3. Conclusion or Transition:


BODY PARAGRAPH 3:

1. Evidence #3 in support of the claim you made in your thesis:


2. How does evidence #3 support your claim?


3. Conclusion or Transition:


BODY PARAGRAPH 4:

1. Evidence #4 in support of the claim you made in your thesis:


2. How does evidence #4 support your claim?


3. Conclusion or Transition:


BODY PARAGRAPH 5:

1. Evidence #5 in support of the claim you made in your thesis:


2. How does evidence #5 support your claim?

3. Conclusion or Transition:

CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH:

1. Restate your thesis statement in different words:

2. Summarize your main evidence:

3. Concluding sentence: