

Texas Performance Standards Project

Instructor: Heather Hill

Email: hhill4@houstonisd.org

Conference: 5th Period

Description:

This course's purpose is to achieve the goals set forth by the Texas Performance Standards Project and capture the high levels of achievement that gifted and talented students can exhibit through a research project of the student's choosing. This is essentially an independent research class. The skills learned in this class will help all students be successful in all classes at Carnegie and especially in college.

Asking questions and exploring possibilities are two of the key components of being gifted and talented. This course will allow Carnegie students to delve into the aspect that sets them apart from all other students – being GT. How exciting is it to be able to have class time to research in depth a topic that has always been an interest but has never been able to be a part of other classes? Now students have the time to study a subject that they care about and that they choose.

Requirements:

Through research and the assistance of a mentor, students will create a project that consists of the long-term development of a question or idea that is significant to professionals in the specified field of study. The project will result in learning that is demonstrated through products appropriate to and comparable in quality to those of a professional who works in the chosen field of study. A *project* consists of a **literature review**, a **product**, and a **presentation/question-and-answer session**.

Students will use a OneNote class notebook that will act as the process record for their project. A process record is necessary to keep track of all the work and progress the student has made on their projects throughout the year. This notebook will be updated weekly to show the student's progress with the research, such as a list of annotated sources, and questions and ideas that develop during the research progress. In addition, the notebook will track the communication between the student and their mentor. Students will also turn in most assignments throughout the year in their notebooks rather than hard copies in class. When a hard copy of an assignment is required, students will get advanced notice.

Students are required to find, meet, and communicate with a mentor/expert advisor every grading cycle. Mentors are to help aid the student with the research process and product development.

Resources:

Students will spend a large amount of time over the next nine months researching their topic. All students are expected to have access to the Houston Public Library to access and use their databases to find sources. Classes will spend time every week accessing these databases to find sources, as well as updating OneNote to show their research process.

Evaluation & Grading:

Students will be evaluated in several ways. The weighted categories are as follows:

- Meetings – 10%
- Class Assignments – 20%
- Process Logs/Annotations – 30%
- Major Project Components – 40%

Late Work Policy:

Students will have ONE school day from the due date to submit a late assignment for a maximum grade of 70. **The student MUST notify the teacher via an email letting the teacher know that the late assignment was submitted.** If the student does not get a reply confirming the receipt of the email from the teacher, then it is **the student's responsibility** to check in with the teacher to confirm receipt of their email.

If the student never emails the teacher, then the late work will not be accepted, and the student will receive a 0 for the late assignment.

The teacher will not remind students to submit late work. It is entirely up to the student to be aware of the due dates for EACH assignment (these will be posted in OneNote, Canvas, and on the board in class).

If the teacher posts the grade for an assignment after the one-day late window, the missing work is still a 0 because it is the student's responsibility to track when work is due.

Being away from school for any school-related activity does not excuse the student from turning in any due assignment at assigned times.

This policy does not apply to assignments due at the end of class on the day the assignment was assigned.

Absences:

If a student is absent from class, which results in missing work/assignments, the student has three days for each day absent to make up missed work. It is the students' responsibility to find out what they missed. If a student misses their class period but is present at school (student is with the nurse or other school personnel) on the due date of the assignment, the student is still expected to turn in the assignment **that day** or it will be considered late. If a student has a field trip and misses class on a day that an assignment is due, **the assignment is due at the original date and time**, or it will be considered late. Absences that involve missing a due date require an approved "excused absence" for consideration for credit.

You are expected to attend TPSP class every day. If you are absent, it is **your responsibility** to promptly gather the assignments that you missed. I will not remind you of missed assignments; you must take the initiative to find out what you missed. The assignments and lessons are all available in OneNote. Any assignments not made up from an absence will result in a zero. **All assignments are scheduled far enough in advance that absenteeism the day before a major assignment is due will not allow for a postponement of the assignment's due date.** **If you are absent the day an assigned is due, you must turn it in the day you return to school. The three-day policy is ONLY for work done in class.**

Other important guidelines:

- If you know you need to borrow materials or print something from the library, do so **before** the tardy bell rings.
- You are expected to be on task every day, which will affect your citizenship **and** grade.
- If you are found playing games, doing work for other classes, or on websites that have nothing to do with TPSP, it will be documented, and you will be written up after multiple infractions. **Class time is to work on your project.**
- If you know you will need to do something on your project that does not require the internet (like work on your product), then come to class ready to complete that task.

Academic Integrity:

Cheating will not be tolerated in this course. Any student caught cheating will immediately receive a “0” for the assignment and the parent will be notified. Cheating is considered a Level 2 violation, so anyone caught cheating will also be referred to the office. All students should be aware of the Honor Code, which is found in the student planner.

At no time should a student EVER copy and paste all or portions of previous process logs or source annotations without express approval from the instructor. Doing so will result in a 0 for that log and the student being written up for academic dishonesty.

Copying your own work and submitting it as a new work is considered academic dishonesty and will result in a 0 for the assignment and a write-up.

ChatGPT and AI Usage:

Using any kind of AI platform to write any part of any assignment or part of the project will be considered academic dishonesty and result in a 0 for the assignment and a write-up. Using an AI platform to improve writing or better understand an aspect of the project is encouraged. Having the platform do all of the work is considered academic dishonesty.

Main Selection of Texts:

Leedy, P. and Ormrod, J. (2013). *Practical research: Planning and design*. Upper Saddle River: NJ. Pearson Publishing.

Galvan, Jose L. (2004). *Writing literature reviews: a guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences*. Glendale, CA; Pycszak Pub.

Supplementary Books:

Christensen, L., and Johnson, R., and Turner, L. (2014). *Research Methods*. 12th Edition. Upper Saddle River: NJ Perason.

Creswell, J. (2012). *Educational Research*. 4th Edition. Upper Saddle River: NJ. Pearson Publishing.

Harris, R. (2011). *Using Sources Effectively*. 3rd Edition. Glendale: CA. Pycszak Publishing.

Palmquist, M. (2015). *The Bedford Researcher*. Boston: MA. Bedford/St. Martin's publisher.

While you are not required to purchase any of these books, it is recommended.

By signing this you are agreeing to the policies covered in this document. Return this last page to your period's inbox.

Student's Full Name (First and Last) Printed

Student's Full Name (First and Last) Signature

Parent/Guardian's Full Name (First and Last) Printed

Parent/Guardian's Full Name (First and Last) Signature