

Etymology Research Project

AP Language and Composition

For this project you will be exploring the etymology of words. You will have three parts to research: your name, slang words, and non-slang words. Each part will be compiled into ONE PowerPoint/Prezi to be presented to the class. Any sources that you use MUST be added to the last slide of each section and cited in proper MLA format.

(Failure to properly cite your sources will result in a grade of ZERO percent for plagiarism.)

*A few sources to help you get started are: behindthename.com, houseofnames.com, etymonline.com, *Oxford English Dictionary*.*

This Project is Due April 9, 2018---No Late Work Will Be Accepted
Projects MUST be submitted via Email (g-mail only and MUST already work) no
later than 8:00 a.m.

Part I—Your Name

- You will research the history of BOTH your first and last names
- The remaining components must answer the following questions:
 1. Does anyone else in your family share your name? Who? What is the story behind that?
 2. Who named you and why?
 3. Is there a story behind your name? If so, what is it?
 4. What country is your first and last name from?
 5. Does your name mean something in another language? If so, what?
 6. What famous people, dead or alive, share your name (provide at least three examples for first name and three examples of last name)
 7. Is there a coat of arms that represents your last name? If so, place a copy of it in your presentation. If not, create one!
 8. Find the different pronunciations of your name (first and last) in other languages? List the different spellings. How is it pronounced in English? How should it be said?
 9. Does your name mean something?

Part II—Slang Words (Remember ALL WORDS MUST BE SCHOOL APPROPRIATE!!!)

- You will research two slang words that represent an aspect of YOU.
- The remaining components must answer the following questions:
 1. What are the two words you are going to research?

2. When and where were the words first used? What did they mean back then? (historical research throughout time)
3. What are the multiple definitions of the words?
4. What do the words mean in slang?
5. What are the formal uses of the words?
6. Do the words mean something in other countries that speak English? If so, what do the words mean in other countries?
7. Are the words considered offensive in polite company or have they become an accepted part of common speech?
8. What social group or groups use the words and why?
9. Can people outside this social group use the words? Why or why not?
10. Give an example of how and when the words might be used.
11. Have the words' definitions changed over time?

Part III—NON-Slang Words (Remember ALL WORDS MUST BE SCHOOL APPROPRIATE!!!)

- You are to choose two non-slang words to describe yourself.
- The remaining components must answer the following questions:
 1. When did these words originate?
 2. From what base language did they originate? (Greek, Latin, Native American, etc.)
 3. What part of speech are the words?
 4. What are the root words? What do the root words mean?
 5. What other variations are there of these words?
 6. In what ways have the words changed over time?
 7. What are the definitions of the words?
 8. Use the words in a few sentences.
 9. Create an illustration of the words.

Part IV—Critique

- You are to include two slides explaining in detail what you learned about yourself from this project and in detail what you would critique about the way you researched your information for your project.

****The order of the slides in each section does not matter. The order of the parts (I, II, III) do matter.****