**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Passion-Driven Independent

Study

Workbook

24 1

**About This Project**

1

**With this project, you will be given the opportunity to**

**self-select and self-direct your own**

**independent learning project.**

**What will I study?**

**Your project will involve something YOU want to learn how to do or something you want to learn more about. It may include a problem to solve, an issue to debate, a topic to investigate, or a product to create.**

**What will Independent Study look like?**

**Developing a final product does not necessarily mean a written report or power point presentation. Think outside the box! Think about ways to make the final product authentic in the field of study of your choice.**

**How long will this project take?**

**With teacher support, you will be deciding steps and a timeline for your own project. You may choose to continue or extend your project beyond he due date. As you are working, you may develop new ideas, interests, and discover new facets of your topic as you go.**

**Selecting a Topic of Study**

2

**The first step of this project will be selecting a topic of study.**

**It is important that you choose something of genuine interest to**

**you. You will be presenting your findings or creation to your**

**peers or an approved authentic audience of your choice.**

**Brainstorm:**

***You will have flexibility with the content of your topic and final product, but it must be parent and teacher approved.***

**Directions:** To help narrow your interests for this project, please answer the questions below.

What do you like to do in your free time?

What do you usually do after school?

What do you do in the evenings?

What do you do on your time off from school (weekends, summer, breaks, etc.)?

Do you like to read? What genre or types of books do you like to read?

Do you enjoy hearing someone read or tell stories?

Do you read the newspaper?

What would you like to do after finishing school?

Is there anyone you know (personally or just know of..) who does the type of work you are interested in?

Have you done any research in the past on this profession or content?

 What is your favorite subject in school?

What is your least favorite subject in school?

Use the space below to detail other interests or hobbies, past research projects or content areas that have excited you, etc.

**Reflection of Brainstorming:**

***Discuss your answers with a parent, friend, or teacher. After reviewing your answers, you will now narrow down your responses to a few options. Be creative.***

**Directions:** List your top three topics below. Share this list with friends, family, your teacher, and peers to receive feedback on your ideas. They may be able to help you consider important issues and questions about your topic.

 Topic Idea Notes? Thoughts?

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STOP

And conference

with your

teacher.

**Things to Think About**

**Directions:** After looking over your list of your top three topics you are considering, is there a clear favorite? Is there anything else to consider? Do you need to or want to research before you continue? Remember, at this point, you just need a general idea of the topic for your research.

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**General Project Topic:**

**Directions:** After considering and discussing your three options above, explain which general project option you chose and why.

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STOP

And conference

with your

teacher.

**Planning Your Study/Asking Questions**

3

**For this segment of the project, you will brainstorm specific**

**big ideas and essential questions about your topic.**

**You will work with your teacher to reflect on**

**information you gathered and identify resources you may need.**

**Identify Topic Questions:**

***When asking questions think of descriptions, comparisons, why, what, when, where, why, how, how much, how many, how long, how far, problems, solutions, cause and effect.***

**Directions:** Brainstorm questions you want to know or will need to know to investigate your topic. Use the Internet or other authentic resources (interviews, books, etc.) to help develop your questions. Write your questions in the space below.

**Identify Sources of Information**

**Directions:** List sources of information you may have or need to use to complete your Independent study.

**Identify Your Goals**

**Directions:** Identify things you will need to do and achieve to complete your independent study.

STOP

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**Independent Learning Contract**

4

**After brainstorming, reflecting, and conferencing about**

**your topic, you will complete the contract below.**

**You, your teacher, and your parents will agree on your**

**independent study goals and tentative final project**

**My Independent Study Goal**

**Directions:** After reviewing your work on steps 1-3 in this packet, write a specific project goal.

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**My Project End Product**

**Directions:** Depending on your goal, you may not be able to commit to specifics regarding your final project until you get closer to the end result. Please provide as much detail as possible about the final project you envision.

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STOP

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STOP

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**Teacher’s Independent Study Goal for Student**

**Directions:** To be completed by your teacher.

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**Learning Contract**

I have reviewed the above goals of the student and teacher.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Map Out Your Work**

**Directions:** After your learning contract has been completed and signed, use the calendars below to plan out steps of completing your project based on your timeline and goals of the previous pages in this packet. Use pencil. After filling out the calendars, you will meet with your teacher to reflect on the schedule. *After this, you will meet weekly or bi-weekly with your teacher to assess your progress and re-assess your plan written below.*

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Notes:

STOP

And conference

with your

teacher.

**Note: When you conference with your teacher, make sure to discuss at what points**

**in your project (specific weeks) you will meet with your teacher to check in. Also,**

**think about a “best” day of the week for you to blog and write comments.**

**Gather Information and Develop Product**

5

**As you begin this project, you will document your research**

**using a journal format. Your journal posts will**

**be used to collect your research, document your work and self-**

**reflections, and share your product progress.**

**Setting Up Your Blog-Based Journal**

**Directions:** You will be using a blog format to journal your project progress. Your teacher will inform you the approved blog site being used by the class (such as Blogger.com or KidBlogs.com and the security settings required.) The whole group will set up the blogs in a class period together. For security, blog passwords must be provided to both parent and teacher.

**Blogging Requirements**

* **Post 1 Blog Post A Week:** There will not be a minimum length per blog journal post. The content must be meaningful and appropriate. The post must document your work, self-reflections, research, and/or project progress. *The recommended length will be approximately 1-2 paragraphs a week. The post may contain pictures, quotes, references, etc.*
* **Post 2 Blog Comments A Week:** To support your classmates’ project endeavors, you will be required to post comments on two peers’ blogs per week. Your comments must be appropriate, positive, and supportive. *The recommended length will be approximately 1-2 sentences each.*