



Thesis Journal

School of Grammar

Sixth Grade



Name: _____

Topic: _____

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In developing this handbook, we would like to acknowledge the following:

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Thesis Overview

The School of Grammar Thesis is a three-part process which provides the best opportunities for students to explore and share their ideas about how the world works. The process includes a science experiment through active inquiry where students ask questions, make predictions, test their ideas, and communicate their findings. The research paper provides active exploration to help students come to a deeper understanding of the concept. Finally, through a presentation, students will have the opportunity to communicate their ideas as they develop presentation skills and self-confidence.

Within this packet, you will find pertinent information outlining the thesis process. In order for your student to complete the thesis properly, it is important for them to understand the Scientific Method, the Writing Process, and Presentation skills. The majority of the thesis will be done in class; however, students who are completing a science experiment are expected to complete the actual experiment at home. The final draft of the paper and PowerPoint will be completed at home. Each section of the thesis will be graded as designated by the student's respective tutor.

Important Timeline Dates

WEEK of Oct. 7th	Topic Selection
Wed., Oct. 16th	Bible Verse
Wed., Nov. 6th	References
Wed., Nov. 20th	Three-Point Expository Statement
Wed., Dec. 11th	Introduction
Wed., Jan. 15th	Body Paragraphs
Wed., Feb. 5th	Conclusion
Wed., Mar. 4th	Abstract
Wed., Apr. 8th	Research Paper
Wed., Apr. 29th	Power Point Presentation <u>and</u> Index Cards
May 4th –May 8th	Thesis Presentation Practice
<u>WEEK of May 11th</u>	6 th Grade Thesis Presentations



Topics

Develop your own topic with approval from the Tutor.	Are green detergents less toxic than conventional detergents?
How does cutting down trees effect our environment?	How are hybrid cars better for the environment?
What effects would carpooling have on pollution?	What are the causes and effects of global warming?
Why is paper recycled and how is it reused?	What is the effect of acid rain on plant growth?
Which food group decomposes the quickest?	How does acid rain effect our environment?
How do we (people) contribute to pollution and how can we decrease pollution?	What kinds of garbage break down the fastest in a landfill?
How does metal help our environment?	How do wind generators create energy?
How does the sun create reliable solar energy?	How do plants grow in different environments?
Which building design best withstands an earthquake?	Is a meat free diet better for human consumption?
How accurate are long-range weather forecasts?	What brand of matchbox car rolls more freely?
Why are so many animals becoming endangered and what can we (people) do to decrease the amount of endangered species?	Which juice box manufacturer has the largest volume of juice and used the lease amount of packing material?
How is pollution harmful?	Why is noise pollution detrimental?
Is there any correlation between men and their athletic ability and the length of their middle finger?	Do people have a dominate side of their brain?

Please note: Topic selections must be approved by your Tutor.

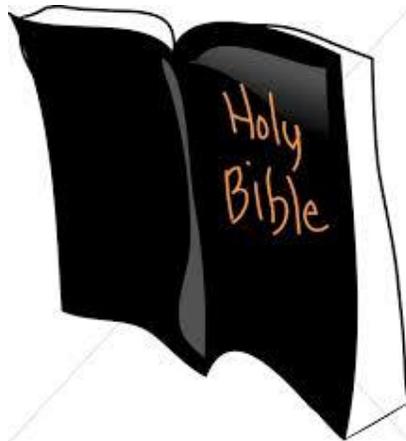
Bible Verse

Choose a Bible verse that you believe is related to your thesis topic.

This assignment is due by _____

The Bible Verse that relates to this topic is:

Scripture Reference: _____



Evaluating Sources

Evaluating sources is a critical feature of the research paper process. You are looking for information from credible sources and credible authors. But how do you determine which sources from periodicals, newspapers, websites, and books to use?

How do you know whether the information is essential to your research project?

Below are some questions that should aid you in the process of evaluating sources.

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN EVALUATING SOURCES

- Does the information come from a trustworthy and reliable source? Who is the author of the source?
- What are the author's credentials?
- What is the author's purpose for writing?
- Who is the author's intended audience?
- What is the author's perspective or bias on the subject matter for which he/she is writing?
- What is the author's worldview based upon the information presented?



Reference Guidelines

Book

1. Name of the author (last name, first name).
2. Title of the book. (Italicized)
3. City of publication.
4. Publisher, date of publication.

Example: Smith, John. *Science Experiments*. New York. Tripleday, 2015.

Website

1. Name of the author (last name, first name).
2. "Title of Article". In quotation marks.
3. Title of the Homepage, if you can find it (Italicized).
4. Date you visited.
5. First part of the http address in brackets ([]).

Example: "Science Experiments 101". *Science World*. 27 Sept. 2016
[<http://www.scienceworld.com>].

Magazines

1. Name of the author (last name, first name).
2. "Title of Article". In quotation marks.
3. Magazine title (Italicized) date: page.

Example: Smith, John. "Science Experiments are Fun". *Science Magazine*. September 2016: 23.

Print Encyclopedia

1. Name of the author.
2. Title of the article in quotation marks.
3. Title of book (Italicized).
4. Date of edition.

Example: Smith, Sandy. "Inventions". *Maryland's Encyclopedia*. 2014.

Media

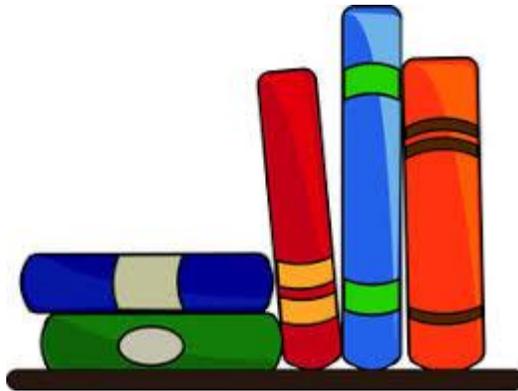
1. Title.
2. Medium (state if it is a film, video, slide, etc.)
3. Production Company,
4. Date.
5. Time length.

Example: Science is for Everyone. Video Science Company, 27 September 2016. 5 minutes 20 seconds.

Interviews

1. Person you interviewed.
2. Type of interview.
3. Date

Example: Smith, Cindy. Structured Interview. 28 September 2016



References

When you are citing references, you are giving credit to all of the sources that you used to conduct your research. The list must be handwritten in alphabetical order by the author's name.

This assignment is due by _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

****Students are required to have a minimum of six references****

Reference Rubric					
Category	Scoring Criteria	Excellent (3 pts.)	Satisfactory (2 pts.)	Minimal (1 pt.)	Missing (0 pts.)
Heading	Student properly headed their paper with their name, date, and class number.				
Understanding	Student has a clear understanding of how to properly cite a reference.				
Preparedness	Student submitted references on time.				
Format	Student followed the reference guidelines. All references included the proper elements and were written in alphabetical order by the author's name.				
References	Student listed at least six references.				
Legibility	Student's work is easy to read.				
Total					

**Three-Point
Expository Statement
Rubric**

Category	Scoring Criteria	Excellent (3 pts.)	Satisfactory (2 pts.)	Minimal (1 pt.)	Missing (0 pts.)
Heading	Student properly headed their paper with their name, date, and class number.				
Understanding	Student demonstrates a clear understanding of how to write a three-point expository statement.				
Preparedness	Student submitted three-point statement on time.				
Format	Student followed the three-point expository thesis statement guidelines. One complete sentence that names the three points to be discussed.				
Grammar	Student demonstrates a clear understanding of how to write a thesis statement.				
Legibility	Student's work is easy to read.				
Total					

Introduction

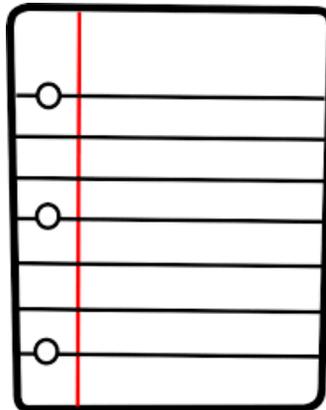
The introduction should answer the question “What is my research topic about?” Within the introduction you should include the following:

- Three-point thesis statement
- General background information
- A capturing sentence to get the attention of the audience.
- Bible verse

This assignment is due by _____

Example: Thesis Question/ Topic: *Why is aluminum recycled?*

Example: Thesis Body-Point 1: Recycling aluminum conserves energy, increases jobs, and is profitable. Although aluminum is the most recyclable of all materials, an estimated \$1 billion worth of aluminum is discarded yearly in the United States. According to The Aluminum Association, one recycled aluminum can saves enough energy to listen to a full album on an iPod. Even we, according to God’s Word, are to be renewed in order to be valuable members within the body of Christ. Romans 12:2 states, “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.”



Introduction Rubric					
Category	Scoring Criteria	Excellent (3 pts.)	Satisfactory (2 pts.)	Minimal (1 pt.)	Missing (0 pts.)
Heading	Student properly headed their paper with their name, date, and class number.				
Understanding	Student demonstrates a clear understanding of how to write the thesis introduction.				
Preparedness	Student submitted thesis introduction on time.				
Format	Student followed the thesis introduction guidelines. The introduction answered the question-what is my research topic about?				
Bible Verse	The Bible verse was included within the introduction.				
General Information	General background information was included within the introduction.				
Capturing Sentence	Capturing sentence was included within the introduction.				
Grammar	All sentences are well-structured and free from errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.				
Legibility	Student's work is easy to read.				
Total					

Body Paragraphs

The body will consist of one paragraph for each main point. Each paragraph should begin with a sentence stating your main point followed by two or more supporting sentences that give additional information about the point. Within the body you should include the following:

- Three main points
- Each of the three main points must have at least two or more supporting sentences.
- Within the text of your report, you must acknowledge any paraphrased idea or quotation that you have borrowed from someone else. To cite a source, place the author's last name and the page number where the information was found in parentheses at the end of each sentence.
- Please see reference 105 in your English textbook for an example for writing the body.

This assignment is due by _____



Body Paragraphs

My Body Point 1:

My Body Point 2:

My Body Point 3:

Body Paragraphs Rubric					
Category	Scoring Criteria	Excellent (3 pts)	Satisfactory (2 pts)	Minimal (1 pt.)	Missing (0 pts.)
Heading	Student properly headed their paper with their name, date, and class number.				
Understanding	Student demonstrates a clear understanding of how to write the thesis body.				
Preparedness	Student submitted thesis body on time.				
Format	Student followed the thesis body guidelines. The thesis body provides details to support the three-main points that were researched.				
Main Point 1	First point is stated and includes evidence from your research to support your point.				
Main Point 2	Second point is stated and includes evidence from your research to support your point.				
Main Point 3	Third point is stated and includes evidence from your research to support your point.				
References	The student acknowledges any paraphrased idea or quotation that was borrowed from someone else.				
Grammar	All sentences are well-structured and free from errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.				
Legibility	Student's work is easy to read.				
Total					

Conclusion Rubric					
Category	Scoring Criteria	Excellent (3 pts)	Satisfactory (2 pts)	Minimal (1 pt.)	Missing (0 pts.)
Heading	Student properly headed their paper with their name, date, and class number.				
Understanding	Student demonstrates a clear understanding of how to write a conclusion.				
Preparedness	Student submitted conclusion on time.				
Format	Student followed the conclusion guidelines. The thesis conclusion states the results of your research, how the research will benefit society, and if there were any fallacies.				
Grammar	All sentences are well-structured free from errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.				
Legibility	Student's work is easy to read.				
Total					

Abstract

The Abstract is an abbreviated summary of the paper. Answer each question below to assist with writing your abstract. Compile (put together) the answers to the questions in one paragraph. The abstract should be a maximum of 250 words.

This assignment is due by _____



Abstract Guide

Summarize the most important aspects of your research for each section listed below.

1. **Project Title** (the same as the title of your research paper) and supportive Bible Verse.

2. **Introduction** (What is your research about? Why is this research topic interesting or important?) (2-4 sentences)

3. **Hypothesis** (What did you think you would find? Why?) (1-2 sentences)

4. **Body** (Briefly explain your three main points).

5. **Results** (What were the results of your research? How will your research benefit society?) (2-4 sentences)

6. **Discussion** (Are your results consistent with your initial hypothesis? Why or why not?) (2 sentences)

7. **Conclusion** (What is *your* interpretation of your research? If you had a fallacy, how did you come to that conclusion?) (2-3 sentences)

Abstract Rubric					
Category	Scoring Criteria	Excellent (3 pts.)	Satisfactory (2 pts.)	Minimal (1 pt.)	Missing (0 pts.)
Heading	Student properly headed their paper with their name, date, and class number.				
Understanding	Student demonstrates a clear understanding of how to write an abstract.				
Preparedness	Student submitted abstract on time.				
Format	Student followed the thesis abstract guidelines by writing an abbreviated (maximum of 250 words) summary of the paper.				
Grammar	All sentences are well-structured free from errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.				
Legibility	Student's work is easy to read.				
Total					

Research Paper



The research paper contains all sections of your thesis. It must include the following:

1. Cover Page

- Title
- Must contain student's name
- Due Date
- Grade
- Homeroom Tutor
- Woodstream Christian Academy

2. Table of Contents

3. Dedication Page

The dedication page acknowledges the help that was received in completing this project.

4. Abstract

The abstract is a brief summary of the paper. Each student will fill out the abstract worksheet in class. The answers to the worksheet should be compiled and typed at home.

5. Introduction

The introduction should answer the question "What is my research topic about?" Within the introduction you should include the following:

- Three-point thesis statement
- General background information
- A capturing sentence to get the attention of the audience.
- Bible verse

6. Main Body

The thesis body will consist of one paragraph for each main point. Each paragraph should begin with a sentence stating your main point followed by two or more supporting sentences that give additional information about the point. Within the body you should include the following:

- Three main points

- Each of the three main points must have at least two or more supporting sentences.
- Within the text of your report, you must acknowledge any paraphrased idea or quotation that you have borrowed from someone else. To cite a source, place the author's last name and the page number where the information was found in parentheses at the end of each sentence.
- Please see reference 105 in your English textbook for an example for writing the body.

7. Conclusion

The conclusion is a summary of your findings. Within the conclusion you should include the following:

- What were the results of your research?
- How will your research benefit society?
- If you had any fallacy (false idea or mistake), how did you come to that conclusion?

8. References

When you are citing references, you are giving credit to all of the sources that you used to conduct your research. The list must be in alphabetical order by the author's name.

Students may use the following:

- Books (Encyclopedias, etc.)
- Internet and Magazines (National Geographic, etc.)
- Personal Interviews

This assignment is due by _____

Sample Cover Page

Thesis Paper Title

By

Name of Student

Grammar School

Woodstream Christian Academy

Homeroom Tutor:

Grade:

Date

Sample Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Cover Page.....	1
Table of Contents.....	2
Abstract.....	3
Dedication Page.....	4
Introduction.....	5
Controls, Variables, Data.....	6
Conclusion.....	7
References.....	8

Sample Dedication Page

Dedication Page

I, John Doe, dedicate this thesis in memory of my grandmother, Janie Doe. Janie Doe was an outstanding role-model and encourager to me. She would always encourage me to do my best and to honor God with every area of my life. I also dedicate this thesis to my parents because without their love, support, and guidance I would not be the student I am today. May God bless each of you.

Sample Abstract Page

Abstract

Job 14:11 reads, “as the water of a lake dries up or a riverbed becomes parched or dry”, confirms the fact that our water sources evaporate. The question, “Do all liquids evaporate at the same rate?” was answered in my experiment to prove that not all liquids evaporate at the same time. I think this is an important question, because along with temperature, humidity, and wind, the composition, and other characteristics of a liquid determine its rate of evaporation and if it will evaporate at all. I conducted three trials over a period of 17 days placing all liquids in glass bottles at room temperature, but for trial three, I used a reading lamp placed 6 inches above the glass bottles to increase the temperature. For each trial, I recorded my data in a tabular form for the first and last day of each trial. I learned after the third trial that a higher temperature did not speed up evaporation. However, my results are consistent with my hypothesis because some evaporation did occur in trial 2. I think adding the reading lamp in trial two might have led to different results because of the longer period. Therefore, while not all liquids evaporate at the same rate, they also take different lengths of time to evaporate mostly due to composition and other characteristics. It is important to know the rate of evaporation and the time it takes for liquids to evaporate because some liquids are used for different reasons.

Research Paper Rubric					
Category	Scoring Criteria	Excellent (3 pts)	Satisfactory (2 pts)	Minimal (1 pt.)	Missing (0 pts.)
Cover Page	Student properly headed their cover paper with the following: Title, Name, School Name, Tutor, Grade, and Date.				
Table of Contents	Table of contents is included within the research paper.				
Dedication	Student acknowledges who the paper is dedicated to.				
Abstract	The abstract is included within the paper.				
Introduction	The introduction answered the question-what is my research topic about?				
Main Point 1	First point is stated and includes evidence from your research to support your point.				
Main Point 2	Second point is stated and includes evidence from your research to support your point.				
Main Point 3	Third point is stated and includes evidence from your research to support your point.				
Conclusion	The thesis conclusion states the results of your research, how the research will benefit society, and if there were any fallacies.				
References	The student acknowledges any paraphrased idea or quotation that was borrowed from someone else. At least five references are included within the research paper.				
Preparedness	Student submitted research paper on time.				
Format	Student followed the research paper guidelines. The thesis research paper was typed and included all required sections.				
Grammar	All sentences are well-structured. Free from errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.				
Legibility	Student's work is easy to read.				
Total					

Index Cards

Today, you will begin placing your Thesis information on index cards in class. These cards can be used on presentation day. You will work in class this week, then your parents will help you make the necessary corrections.

Corrected index cards are due by _____

Before you begin pay attention to the following:

1. Number your cards in the bottom right hand corner with the numbers 1-7. If you need more cards, more are available.
2. Only write on the side of the cards with the lines. If there is not enough space on one card, use the next card to finish the section you are working on.
3. Make sure you are writing in your neatest handwriting. You will have to read your own handwriting when you are presenting.

Please use the following guidelines to make your cards:

Card One– Greeting

*For Example: Good Morning Deans, Faculty and Staff, Parents, and Students.
My name is Ms. Johnson.*

Card Two– Thesis Dedication

*Write 2 sentences that addresses who you are dedicating your presentation to.
You may use the dedication that was in your final paper. Please only use two sentences that summarize your dedication.*

Card Three– Introduction

Write five sentences that will capture your audience. Make sure to include your Thesis topic, Bible Verse (this can be either here or in your conclusion), and the three points that you researched.

Card Four– Point 1 of Body

Introduce the first point that you researched. Then share evidence that you found from your point of view

Card Five– Point 2 of Body

Introduce the second point that you researched. Then share evidence that you found from your point of view

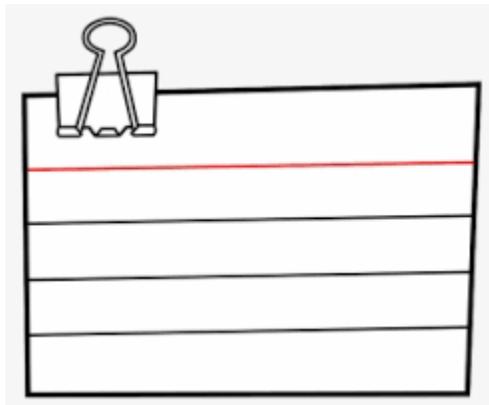
Card Six– Point 3 of Body

Introduce the third point that you researched. Then share evidence that you found from your point of view

Card Seven– Results and Conclusion

Write the conclusion that you have drawn from the research. Include the results of your research, how it may benefit society, and if you had a fallacy (mistaken idea).

Please note: You may need up to 2-3 cards for the body but, should not have more than 13 cards. Your oral presentations should not last longer than 5 minutes.



Oral Presentation

"If you have an important point to make, don't try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time, a tremendous whack."

---Winston Churchill

First Impressions

Interesting subject matter is not enough to guarantee the success of a presentation. On the other hand, you know from listening to speakers yourself that some speakers are so good that they can hold your attention no matter what topic they are covering. The speaker's appearance, posture/gestures, eye contact, and voice all contribute to the success or failure of a presentation.

Appearance

This is the first thing your audience will notice. Therefore, it is important to dress appropriately. Think of thesis presentation day as a job interview and dress accordingly (Chapel Uniform Required). Dress comfortably so that you look and feel good without being flamboyant.

Posture

If possible, try not to pace, shift your weight from one foot to another. Any movements you make should be directly related to your topic. You do not want your audience to pay so much attention to unrelated movement that they lose track of what you are saying.

Eye Contact

Of course you look at your friends when you talk to them. When you give a speech, you should think of the audience as your friends and look directly at them. A person in the audience likes to think that the speaker is speaking directly to him or her; eye contact establishes this connection. Scan the room, looking right, left, and center. Remember, your audience wants you to succeed, and they can convey a feeling of encouragement to you through their eye contact.

Voice

Your voice conveys emotions and meaning in addition to the topic-related content. Use your voice to get and hold your audience's attention. As you practice, think about:

- **Pitch:** vary pitch to convey meaning. People with continually high-pitched, lowpitched, or monotonous voices are hard to listen to. Record yourself while you speak and listen to the pitch of your own voice to see if it is pleasant and engaging.
- **Volume:** Your audience must be able to hear you. Vary your volume so that everyone in the room can hear you at all times.
- **Pronunciation:** Make sure you can pronounce all the words in your presentation accurately. If you are unsure, or constantly stumble over certain words, write them phonetically on your note cards.

- **Enunciation:** This refers to the clarity of your speech. Do not run words together or drop the ends of words. Watch for continuous use of words that do not add to your presentation; for instance, as you practice, count the number of times you say "like" during your speech and try to eliminate that habit.
- **Rate:** Are you too fast, or too slow? Give your audience "think" time as you speak.
- **Pauses:** Do not be afraid of brief pauses, and try not to fill them with "uh," "okay," or "ummm."
- **Tone:** Convey your enthusiasm for your topic with your tone of voice. Your tone will make your audience enthusiastic about your topic too.

Practice Your Presentation

Having good note cards and knowing your subject are still not enough preparation for an oral presentation. The more you practice, the more comfortable you will be when you are standing in front of your audience. Use these methods to practice:

- Work out the kinks in a practice presentation with your parents and teachers. You also will have opportunities to present to your classmates.
- Deliver your speech in front of a mirror; notice whether or not you are using gestures appropriately.
- Use a tape recorder to analyze the effectiveness of your voice.
- Use a video camera to get a picture of what you look and sound like during your presentation.
- Do a dress rehearsal in the actual presentation room. Time yourself. Use your visual aids. Have a friend be your audience and give you feedback.

But I'm Nervous Giving a Speech...

Giving a speech can be a nerve-wracking experience, even for people who are used to doing it. Here are some tips to control anxiety:

- Practice, practice, practice. The best relief from feelings of anxiety is to feel prepared. This is not the time to wing it.
- Remind yourself that you are the expert on this topic. You have done the research, you have completed your project, and you are prepared.
- Remind yourself that your audience wants you to succeed. They want to hear you.
- They want to know what you have to say about this experience.
- Use relaxation techniques before your presentation. Take a few deep breaths before you begin speaking.
- Make eye contact with your mentor, advisor, friends, or parents at the beginning of your presentation, to get support and encouragement.



Oral Presentation Rubric					
Category	Scoring Criteria	Excellent (3 pts)	Satisfactory (2 pts)	Minimal (1 pt.)	Missing (0 pts.)
Physical Presentation	The student maintained a pleasant facial expression.				
	The student made eye contact with panelists and audience.				
	The student dressed in required attire.				
General Observation	The student was prepared.				
	The student demonstrated knowledge of the topic.				
	The student spoke with confidence.				
Panel Interaction	The student provided adequate responses to questions posed.				
	The student demonstrated an understanding of the subject matter beyond what was presented.				
Total					



PowerPoint Rubric					
Category	Scoring Criteria	Excellent (3 pts)	Satisfactory (2 pts)	Minimal (1 pt.)	Missing (0 pts.)
Slide 1 Title	Slide should be a creative and engaging “attention grabber”. Slide should include the title of project, name, homeroom tutor’s name, school name, and the date.				
Slide 2 Dedication	Includes the name (s) of the person (s) to whom this presentation is dedicated to.				
Slide 3 Introduction	Introduces the theme of the project and provides a brief overview of the presentation.				
Slide 4 Main Point 1	Slide includes information about point 1 of body.				
Slide 5 Main Point 2	Slide includes information about point 2 of body.				
Slide 6 Main Point 3	Slide includes information about point 3 of body.				
Slide 7 Conclusion	Slide includes any conclusions you have drawn, any reflections they you would like to share, or any challenges with the research.				
Slide 8 References	Slide includes references used during the research process.				
Bible Verse	Bible verse is included within the PowerPoint.				
Preparedness	Student submitted PowerPoint on time.				
Craftsmanship	PowerPoint is creative, shows effort, and well organized.				
Total					