

POWER The
RESEARCHER Research Process
Automation
Tool™

**The 360° Assignment Model™
Research Project Planning Guide**

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360° Assignment Model™ Planning Guide

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Introduction

The easiest way to plan for and manage a successful research project is to be organized. The 360° Assignment Model™ Research Project Planning Guide and PowerResearcher™ are designed to help you plan, organize, manage and assess any classroom research project that you assign.

This document will explain how to use the 360° Research Project Planning Guide. The examples given could pertain to middle school or high school level assignments. The 360° Assignment Model™ and PowerResearcher can also be used in higher education. This Guide is written in step-by-step format with steps being numbered (STEP 1., STEP 2., etc.) and supporting information below each step.

Assignment Steps

Step 1

Type in the grade level the activity is geared towards. This makes it easier to share with other teachers. **Grade Level: High School-11th**

Step 2

Next, type in the topic or title of the research project. The title should always be catchy and descriptive of the activity. **Theme/Unit of Study: Immigration: The American Dream**

Step 3

This is for you to put down on paper what you have in your head. It really is much easier when you can put it down on paper and read in back. That way you can visualize your activity. In order to see the big picture, summarize in a few sentences, exactly what concepts you want to make sure are covered in the research project.

Teacher Objective	Teach students the reasons behind people from all nations coming to America including the following groups; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pilgrims• Irish• Chinese• Jewish• Latin Americans Look at their dreams and contributions to building the US. Be sure to cover Potato Famine, Gold rush, Railway system, Illegal Immigration, Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty, Immigration Act of 1924, Restriction and Laws of Immigration, Assimilation.
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Step 4

When will the project take place? How long should this research project take? Will there be benchmarks that the students have to meet? All of these dates need to be recorded in the designated area in PowerResearcher.

Date(s) of Research Project (examples only)	Assign Project:.....	Nov. 12
	Group Tasks and Research due:	Nov. 26
	Plan and Storyboard* Project:	Dec. 01
	Create Project:	Dec. 10
	Present Project:	Dec. 13
*A Storyboard is a template that is used to plan a multimedia presentation. You can find these on the internet or create one of your own.		

Step 5

The curricular objectives are the standards that the students will meet upon the completion of their research project. These standards are always part of the assessment piece. These standards may be chosen by the teacher, by the student or can be guided by the teacher, but with the input of the student. The following standards are from www.ncss.org/standards

Curricular Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist learners in utilizing chronological thinking so that they can distinguish between past, present, and future time; can place historical narratives in the proper chronological framework; can interpret data presented in time lines; and can compare alternative models for periodization; • Enable learners to develop historical comprehension in order that they might reconstruct the literal meaning of a historical passage, identify the central question(s) addressed in historical narrative, draw upon data in historical maps, charts, and other graphic organizers; and draw upon visual, literary, or musical sources; • Guide learners in practicing skills of historical analysis and interpretation, such as compare and contrast, differentiate between historical facts and interpretations, consider multiple perspectives, analyze cause and effect relationships, compare competing historical narratives, recognize the tentative nature of historical interpretations, and hypothesize the influence of the past; • Assist learners in developing historical research capabilities that enable them to formulate historical
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	<p>questions, obtain historical data, question historical data, identify the gaps in available records, place records in context, and construct sound historical interpretations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help learners to identify issues and problems in the past, recognize factors contributing to such problems, identify and analyze alternative courses of action, formulate a position or course of action, and evaluate the implementation of that decision; • Assist learners in acquiring knowledge of historical content in United States history in order to ask large and searching questions that compare patterns of continuity and change in the history and values of the many peoples who have contributed to the development of the continent of North America; • Guide learners in acquiring knowledge of the history and values of diverse civilizations throughout the world, including those of the West, and in comparing patterns of continuity and change in different parts of the world; • Enable learners to develop historical understanding through the avenues of social, political, economic, and cultural history and the history of science and technology.
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Step 6

Performance objectives are actual skills that students will be able to do upon completion of the research project. These objectives are measurable.

Performance Objectives	Upon completing the research of assigned web sites, the group will justify the information found and design a virtual history book exhibit using PowerPoint depicting their assigned immigrant.
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Step 7

The components or pieces of your research project will be listed here. This will include all aspects of your assignment. It is somewhat of a “To Do” list for you. This part of the guide will help you in the procedure step.

Research Project Components	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write descriptive document to begin research activity. 2. Write description for the 7 characters and create folder for each in PowerResearcher 3. Make a list of essential questions for each character to research for PowerResearcher.
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Gather sites for each character group to research and put in character folder in PowerResearcher. 5. Make Task folder in PowerResearcher 6. Create character slips, storyboard*, checklist, and rubric.
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Step 8

The Classroom management step is crucial to the organization of the project. If students are to be grouped, then explain how the grouping will take place. If students are working individually, describe how this type of learning activity will best serve the student.

Classroom Management	<p>Students will be handed a slip of paper with one of the following immigrant characters typed on it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First settler • Irish Immigrant • Chinese Immigrant • Jewish Immigrant • Latin American Immigrant • Immigration Officer • Opponent <p>Students with the same characters will form a group. Using the task folder in PowerResearcher, each group will assign different tasks depending on the strengths of the group.</p>
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Step 9

Step-by-step procedures explaining the research project make it easier for you and your students to understand. To make sure that you have not left anything out, have a colleague read them. If he/she has to ask you a question for verification, then you have forgotten to include some piece of information. Your procedures should be precise and concise.

Procedures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin class by having the students imagine that they are a family from a small foreign country. This country has been under a dictatorship. They are coming to the United States to live. They have an American Dream. What might that dream be? Brainstorm using concept map portion of PowerResearcher software, computer and projector. Discuss the responses. 2. Start the assignment by saying “For more than 300 years, immigrants from all over the world have settled in the U.S. What dreams, hopes and expectations led them to choose this land?”
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Continue with, “We will be finding the answer to that question and many more with the Research Project Immigration: The American Dream. Your task will be to create a virtual exhibit that will show several visions of the American Dream through the ages. All your information is outlined for you in PowerResearcher in the American Dream project.” 4. Pass out the immigrant slips to the students and allow them to gather into their groups. 5. Groups will go to computers. Open PowerResearcher, open American Dream and read the opening document, “What is the American Dream?” 6. Groups will open the folder that corresponds with their immigrant to read information about their character and to find the sites they are to research. 7. Groups will open the Task folder to read about the different task that each group is to perform and to assign those tasks within the group. 8. Following the timeline gauge, groups will research, plan their exhibit, design their exhibit and present their exhibit.
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Step 10

All materials, handouts, worksheets should be listed here and the location where they are to be found. This is part of the organization of the project.

Materials/Handouts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Character Roles-PowerResearcher 2. Web Sites- PowerResearcher 3. Group Tasks-PowerResearcher 4. Storyboard*-Teacher 5. Exhibit Checklist-Teacher 6. Project Rubric-Teacher
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Step 11

Remember the assessment piece should reflect, not only the project, but the process required to create the project. The standards and the performance objectives also should be included in the assessment. With that in mind, a rubric is probably the best way to go.

Assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student Checklist 2. Teacher Rubric
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Conclusion

We hope this guide has been helpful to you in getting the most out of PowerResearcher and providing some ideas for project-based learning. Please visit us online at www.powerresearcher.com as we will be adding guides and teacher materials periodically.