

Name:

Tutor:

Individual Project Inquiry Journal - Part A

The individual project is an *independent* inquiry task, which means that you have an opportunity to exercise greater control over your own learning. To do this successfully you will need to spend sufficient time on each of the stages and keep to the deadlines for each one.

Stage 1: Connect – Deciding on a topic:

Individual Project Topic	
What topic are you interested in?	
What interests you about this topic? Why do you want to investigate it further?	
Deadline	

What to do next:

- Start reading about your topic in general to get some background information;
- Start thinking about the sorts of questions that what you are reading makes you ask.

Stage 2: Wonder – Focusing your investigation:

Individual Project Focus Questions	
What background reading have you done?	
What intriguing questions do you have about your topic?	
Will these questions allow you to fulfil the requirements of the Individual Project? Can you say something informative about your topic, discuss something interesting and reach your own, reasoned conclusion?	
Deadline	

What to do next:

- Think about sources of information you could use – remember what you have to include. If you are unsure, a checklist is on page 8 of this booklet;
- Use the Investigative Journal pages that follow to record your reading and thinking – you can use these electronically if you prefer;
- Prepare yourself to start writing on _____

FOSIL: Learning by finding out for yourself.



Stage 3: Investigate – Investigating your topic:

An investigative journal is simply a tool to help you manage your investigation. Feel free to use any note-taking method in the boxes – diagrams, mind-maps, bullet points, charts. It is designed to help you, not force you to take notes in a particular way.

You can use this investigative journal in print or electronic format. To access this document electronically, go to https://fossil.org.uk/resources/?fossil_title=Individual%20Project%20Inquiry%20Journal. If you wish to fill in this document electronically, remember to insert your name into the Header.

Research is aimed at building your *understanding* of the complexities of your topic based on information that you have gathered. Therefore, the investigative journal requires details about each of your sources of information as well as your thoughts about the information. Remember to record where you find everything.

The journal makes provision for 5 sources; if you use more than 5 sources, you can:

- copy and paste the table onto a new page – if working electronically;
- photocopy a few more pages before you use the last one – if working with a print investigative journal – and stick them in;
- print off more pages from the electronic version – if working with a print investigative journal – and stick them in.

Individual Project Investigation	
Before you start, consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What sources you could use – you may have identified some from your background reading• Which sources are likely to be most useful and valuable• How you locate the sources	
While investigating, consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The reliability of the information you are reading• Whether the sources give you different perspectives• If you have any information gaps that might need a bit more research	
Before the writing day, consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whether you have found enough accurate information to answer all of your questions	
Deadline = Writing Day	14.03.2020

What to do next:

- Read more about your topic – don't just look for sources that directly answer your question (if they do, it is probably not a great question!). Consider the wider context of your topic, what is it part of?
- Think about everything you read as you go along, and record your thoughts – your investigative journal is part of the assessment;
- If you are not sure what you should be doing, speak to your tutor.

Individual Project: Investigative Journal

Source: <i>Title, author, date published</i> (<i>& shortened URL for online sources</i>)	
Type of source:	Book, Article, Report, Subscription Database/Web site, Film, Other
What information have I found? Either copy the information word for word (quote it), making sure you use quotation marks (“...”), or write it in your own words (paraphrase).	Why is it relevant to my inquiry? Why, of all of the information that you could have chosen, have you chosen this information?
Source: Comment on the <i>quality</i> of this source of information. What makes you think you can trust it (or do you need to find other sources to back it up)? Is it up to date?	



Individual Project: Investigative Journal

Source: <i>Title, author, date published</i> (<i>& shortened URL for online sources</i>)	
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Individual Project

As a reminder, this is the task you have been set:

The Individual Project is an opportunity to demonstrate intellectual curiosity and growing mastery of the inquiry process. It will take the form of an academic essay of around 1,500 words, although it may be shorter if accompanied by an object. The essay will include the following:

- a table of contents;
- an introduction, stating what you have chosen to investigate and why, as well as your research question;
- the body of your essay, in which you outline your investigation and consider the merits of different perspectives (if producing an object, you will also need to describe the process of producing it);
- a conclusion, in which you sum up the reasoning that led to your answer;
- images, if used, must be captioned and cited;
- a bibliography [of scholarly sources], including a reputable website, a subscription database and a book;
- an object - anything, really, other than your essay - if desired/necessary.

Your essay must be accompanied by this inquiry journal (part A) and the inquiry journal (part B) that you will receive on the Individual Project Writing Day.

Form 3 Individual Project Checklist for Pupils		✓
Presenting the Work in a Scholarly Fashion using Word		
Essay Template	I have used the Academic Writing template	
Header & Footer	I have used the Header and Footer to include my name, date and title of the project	
Table of Contents	I have used Word to produce a table of contents	
Bibliography	I have used Word to create a bibliography	
	I have referenced at least one book in my bibliography	
	I have referenced at least one subscription database in my bibliography	
	I have referenced at least one website in my bibliography (not Wikipedia).	
Structure of the Project		
Introduction	In my introduction I have explained why I chose my topic	
	In my introduction I have explained the question I am interested in	
Discussion	I have discussed both sides of the argument	
Conclusion	I have explained the reasoning leading up to my conclusion	
The Investigative Journal and Research Organiser		
Investigative Journal	I have used the Investigative Journal to manage the research process	
Research Organiser	I have used the Research Organiser to organise my conclusions	

If [you] can Google answers to the questions [you're] given, they're likely terrible questions.

– Terry Heick: *How Google Impacts The Way Students Think*