**Anthropocene**

Anthropogenic changes (induced by human activity) in the environment can disrupt an ecosystem and threaten the survival of some species. Human activity is having adverse impacts on biodiversity through overpopulation, overexploitation, habitat destruction, pollution, introduction of invasive species, and climate change.

You will be investigating a specific area of anthropogenic change in a global ecosystem and developing a micro (personal/local) to macro (national/international) action plan to mitigate the impact of those changes.

**Guiding questions:**

**In what ways are human activities putting stress on ecosystems?
What are some choices that people can make to reduce their impacts on the environment?**

By way of documenting the process of your Inquiry Project, you will be required to keep an *Inquiry Portfolio* which will require you to reflect on the process throughout your inquiry. Portfolio entries will be part of the final project assessment. There is much to be learned through the process and progress of a project and the Portfolio will help facilitate this learning. The *Inquiry Portfolio* will include:

* *Working documents* you have completed throughout the process
* *Reflections* & *up-dates* on your progress
* An *Annotated Bibliography* of your resources
* *Research Notes*
* *Working Organizer* – your notes organized
* *Completed Project*
* *Completed Project Reflection*

**Some areas you may wish to consider focusing on:**

Pollution

Equity

Sustainability

Overpopulation

Overconsumption

Industrialized agriculture

Invasive Species

Global warming

Deforestation

Energy industry

Manufacturing industry

Mining industry

Fashion industry

Transportation

Habitat loss

Digital footprints

**INQUIRY PORTFOLIO – Timeline and goalsetting**

|  |
| --- |
| Plan how you will complete this inquiry project before its due date.   |
| Today’s date:  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |
| Timeline and Goalsetting | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |
| Reflection #1 – Setting the Stage  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |
| Reflection #2 – Building Knowledge and Exploring Ideas  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |
| Generating a Research Question | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
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| Reflection #3 – Identifying Resources & Choosing a Topic  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |
| Annotated Bibliography (partial)  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |
| Checklist – Research Ethics and Plagiarism  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |
| Inquiry Project Outline | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |
| Project Draft and Complete Annotated Bibliography | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |
| Reflection #4 – Preparations for Presentation  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |
| Final Project | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |
| Reflection #6 – Project Completion  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Project Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**INQUIRY PORTFOLIO – Setting the Stage**

**Reflection:**

What is my understanding of inquiry?

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**Reflection:**

What area am I going to focus my study on and why?

What do I already know?

What am I interested in learning?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| What do I already know? | What do I wonder?  | What have I learned? |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| What questions do I still have? Where do I want to focus my research? |

**INQUIRY PORTFOLIO - Generating a Research Question – Graphic Organizer**

New idea:

New idea:

New idea:

Which ideas are of most interest to me?

Idea:

Idea:

Idea:

Idea:

Idea:

**Considering time, resources, and my goals, I choose……**

**INQUIRY PORTFOLIO – Identifying Resources & Choosing a Topic**

**Reflection:**

What have I learned?

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How is my new knowledge informing my project decisions?

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Is my question relevant?

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Will I be able to find information related to this topic?

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Do I need to adjust my inquiry question based on new information or a lack of available information on my topic?

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**INQUIRY PORTFOLIO – Collecting Information: Summarizing, Paraphrasing and Taking Notes**

**Include:**

An annotated bibliography of the sources you have used in your research so far.

**What is an annotated bibliography?**

An annotated bibliography is an alphabetical list of books or articles for which you have added explanatory or critical notes. The annotation is usually written in a paragraph and should be up to 150 words in length. In this paragraph you briefly describe the content of the book or articles cited then add an evaluation and a critical comment of your own.

**Annotations vs. Abstracts**

An annotated bibliography differs from an abstract which is simply a summary of a piece of writing without a critical evaluation.

**What is the Purpose of an Annotated Bibliography?**

An annotated bibliography encourages you to think critically about the content of the work you are using. It is good practice for other times when you are doing research when you have to decide whether to use a source in your research or not.

**Information to Include in an Annotation:**

* Complete MLA bibliographic entry
* A brief summary of the content of the source
* A discussion of any strengths and/or weaknesses of the source
* A short statement about the conclusions drawn by the author
* An evaluation of the overall reliability of the source
	+ Is the information reliable?
	+ Is the source current?
	+ Is the research biased?
	+ Are the facts well documented?
	+ Who is the author?
	+ Is he/she qualified in this subject matter?
	+ Is this a scholarly source or a popular source?
* An explanation of why the source is or is not useful in your research
	+ How does this source fit in with your research?
	+ Is this a helpful resource?
	+ Is it too scholarly? Or not scholarly enough?
	+ Is the source too general or too specific?

**INQUIRY PORTFOLIO - Inquiry Project Outline**

I plan to address this question in the following ways:
(continue on to the back of this page if you have more sub-topics).

WOW Factor – New Meaning and Insight

Conclusion:

Details:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Details:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Details:

1.

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Details:

1.

2.

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5.

**INQUIRY PORTFOLIO – Research Ethics and Plagiarism**

**Checklist:**

* I understand that plagiarism is defined as the intentional or unintentional passing off of the words or ideas of another as one’s own without giving credit to the original source of the information
* I have recorded all of the information for each source I have consulted in my research.
* I have taken notes in an ethical manner
* I have checked the copyright status of any images, video, or sound clips that I may use in my final project.
* I have remembered to include parenthetical references for anything that might cause my teacher to ask, “How do you know that?”
* I have gathered enough information to adequately answer my inquiry question.
* I have created a properly formatted bibliography to attach to the end of my project.

**Include:**

All of your research notes.

Your ongoing bibliography chart.

**Plagiarism declaration:**

*I declare that this assignment is my own work. My submission is based on my own personal study and research and I have acknowledged all material and sources used in its preparation appropriately according to accepted rules of referencing and citation.*

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Student Name Student Signature

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Date

**INQUIRY PORTFOLIO – Analyzing, Synthesizing & Creating**

**Include:**

Project draft

A complete annotated bibliography of all of the sources you have used in your research.

**INQUIRY PORTFOLIO – Preparations for presentation**

**Reflection:**

Who is my intended audience?

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What is the best form of expression for my inquiry project output?

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What materials will I need to put my presentation together?

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**INQUIRY PORTFOLIO - Project**

**Include:**

A copy of your final project.

**INQUIRY PORTFOLIO – Project Completion**

**Reflection:**

Was I engaged in the process?

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What challenges did I face during the inquiry process and how did I respond?

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What would I have do differently next time?

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Am I satisfied with the outcome of my inquiry?

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Is the outcome of the inquiry what I envisioned when I started?

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Did this inquiry raise other curiosities or questions?

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|  | **Needs Improvement** | **Meets Expectations** | **Above and Beyond** |
| **Questioning** |  | Student applies understanding of the qualities of an effective inquiry question by frequently asking and refining inquiry questions. Sometimes requires guidance. |  |
| **Thinking** |  | Student successfully transfers critical, creative, and discipline based thinking skills when proposing an answer to the inquiry question or proposing a course of practical action. Student evaluates evidence to draw some conclusions. |  |
| **Process** |  | Student demonstrates a good understanding of themselves as a learner. Student frequently applies strategies to widen and deepen their learning through the inquiry process. |  |
| **Information Literacy** |  | Student successfully applies information literacy concepts and skills to accomplish learning. Student frequently gathers and analyzes multiple sources critically. Student frequently engages ethically with information and demonstrates intellectual integrity in their final product. |  |
| **Communication** |  | Student clearly communicates with the audience. Student makes good use of the terminology and vocabulary relevant to the inquiry. Shows an emerging understanding of self as a learner. |  |
| **Demonstration of Knowledge** |  | Student demonstrates a clear understanding of the content important to the inquiry. Student is beginning to extend concepts and ideas and to transfer those concepts into other areas of study, disciplines or topics. |  |