

VIKES Research Paper

The VIKES project's overall goal is to involve the students in their communities so they learn how their communities function and can make a meaningful contribution to them. Our communities face many issues each day. Some are social (i.e., what kinds of programs are needed by the junior high and high school aged people of the area?), Some are political (i.e., how can suburban Cook County be sure it is receiving a fair share of the country's money and services?), Some are economic (i.e., what is an adequate tax base for a community?).

Each issue in turn contains many questions which need to be answered by research if reasoned decisions are to be made. The research choice of VIKES, allows a student to (a) select an issue relevant to his or her community; (b) gather information on the issue through interviews and background reading; (c) reach a conclusion; (d) write up the findings in a report that could be presented to those officials involved with the issue.

Visit VIKES Website for Paper Topic and Content Information, but basically you will write about a local issue and therefore, most of you information must come from local sources.

Students selecting the research option may, with the approval of their teacher, choose their own issue. They may also decide to research an issue from the list of suggestions which will be available to them on the website. Whatever is chosen, the topic must be approved by the teacher within the given time.

THE PAPER MUST BE TYPED AND DOUBLE SPACED. The correct form/documentation for a research paper MUST be followed. **The expected length is 8-10 Pages.**

Components and Deadlines

70% of the grade is based on the final paper. Full credit will only be given if the paper satisfies all of the requirements listed on the Website.

15% of the grade will be based on the rough draft of the paper which will be evaluated on the basis of how well it follows the outline, how it relates to the interview questions and responses, and supports your thesis.

15% of the grade will be based on the Outline and Interview Questions that are developed for the paper. A **MINIMUM** of four (4) interviews with experts on the topic is required. An expert is NOT your friend who has an opinion on something, but a person with knowledge in depth on the topic. You have to make the contact to set up the interviews.