Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period: \_\_\_\_

**Real Life Problem or Need Project**

**Overview—Big Picture of the Project**

Being truly productive members of society means trying to help people in our community with problems or needs that have negative impacts on their lives and on society as a whole. For this project, you will:

1. Decide on a problem or need that affects real people—preferably a person or people you know, see regularly, have actually seen, or spent time with who are or have been affected by it (personal, family, friends, school students, club/organization members, neighbors, citizens of city, state…).

2. Through research, learn about the problem or need in depth, as well as gather information about progress that people have made so far to help people who suffer from the problem or need.

3. Invent a creative, new plan of action to help people with the problem or need while making enough money to continue and grow the work to help more people over time.

**I. RESEARCH**

**Sources of Information, a Works Cited Page, and Note Cards**

Once you have decided on one problem or need to focus on, find information from a variety of trustworthy, expert, reliable, valid sources, and an OPTIONAL interview, which will help you deeply and thoroughly answer the research questions below.

**Research Questions to Answer**

1A. **What, exactly, is the problem or need**?

1B. **Who, exactly, is affected**

1C. What are the **negative effects** on people who suffer from the problem or need?

1D. What are the problem or need’s **costs to society**?

1E. What are the **causes and conditions** that lead to the problem or need?

2A. **Who has tried to help** with this problem or need?

2B. **How have people tried to help** with this problem or need?

2C. What have been the **results of the actions** taken to help with the problem or need?

**Finding Respected and Respectable Sources:**

**Types of sources include:**

1. Internet-based information, (EBSCO or other research database, websites, magazine articles, newspaper articles, quotations, collected writings, etc.  **Websites should be .edu, .org, or .gov. .Com websites must demonstrate expertise, experience, and integrity. NO WIKIPEDIA, ASK.COM, ABOUT.COM, similar sites, or blogs (except by experts in the field)**

2. Primary Source Documents (speeches, essays, writing, letter, etc. written by a sufferer of the need or problem, or someone who is an expert in the field, or an interview of one of those types of people)

3. Periodicals—magazine, newspaper, or journal articles

4. Books (biography, autobiography, history, edited collection of essays, collected writings, encyclopedia, etc.)

5. Audio-Visual (AV) materials--documentary, movie, television program, interview, song, book on CD, etc.

**Note Cards with Commentary**

**Requirements: 10 in total from 5 sources**

1. As you read each source, keep asking yourself, **“Will this help me answer any of the questions (on the front page) about the problem or need I have chosen to research?”**

2. When you read something that you can use, use regular paper or an index card to create a “note card” with **labels** and information.

**Creating a Works Cited Page for the Useful Sources You Found**

**Requirements: 5 Sources- -** The Works Cited page is a list of the sources of information that you have looked for information in to answer your research questions. These will be in MLA format.

**II. INVENT AN ACTION PLAN:**

**Who will do What, Where and When? Why? How is it All Paid For?**

Now that you understand the problem or need, and what has been done about it, in much more depth, it is time to invent a new, creative plan of action to help people who are suffering from the problem or need. **Your Action Plan needs to include the following elements:**

1. **How** will you try to solve the problem or meet the need?

2. **Who** will be involved?

3. **Why** do you think those plans, actions, etc. will work better than other work done already?

5. What are possible weaknesses in, problems with, and ideas that oppose (are against) your plan of action? How can you respond to those weaknesses, problems, and opposing ideas?

6. a. How much will your work cost?   
b. How will your work be funded?   
c. How will your work pay for itself—become self-sustaining without outside assistance?

**III. PITCH YOUR PLAN IN A 4-6 MINUTE PRESENTATION**

A group of wealthy philanthropists (people who use their wealth to help people) have found out about your plan, and would like to hear more. They are hosting an event where people can come and give an informational presentation about problems and needs in the community and how to help. The best presentations will be funded by this organization for three years, by which time they expect the work to fund itself without outside assistance. You must do all of the following:

1. Describe the problem or need and how it negatively affects people and society in a clear, thorough, and interesting way

2. Briefly review work done already to help people who suffer from this problem or need

3. Explain your action plan in a clear, thorough, and interesting way

4. Use visual (and other sensory) aids that, in an effective and engaging way, help communicate your ideas and persuade your audience to fund your ideas. Aids might include such ideas as 8 and ½ by 11 creations for overhead projection, posters, digital medium such as PowerPoint, costumes, puppets, props, charts, artifacts, etc.

**YOU MAY NOT READ FROM YOUR OVERHEAD PRESENTATION**!

**Adapted from Mr. Swan Van Lent’s project description**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_**

**Due Dates**

**for Each Stage of Your Problem/Needs Engagement Research Project**

Grading: / Due Date:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 0. Topic Due

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Works Cited, first draft (Double spacing, 1 inch margins, and hanging indent REQUIRED)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2. Note Cards—first check

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3. Works Cited, second draft on top of first draft(s)

ALPHABETIZED, plus above requirements

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_4. Note Cards—second check

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_5. Works Cited

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_6. Note Cards—complete set

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_7. Answers to Research Questions, with quotations and citations

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8. Outline of Research Section—includes each paragraph’s topic sentence, CD’s, CM’s, and CS’s

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_9. Introductory Paragraph to Research Section, including

Hook, Background/Introduction to Subject, Big Picture (with no explanation/details/quotations) of your problem and proposed solution.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_10. Answers to All Action Plan Questions

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_11. First Draft—typed double-spaced in correct MLA format

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_12. Second Draft and first draft showing appropriate revision and editing

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_13. “Final” Draft and second draft showing appropriate revision and editing (final draft will be returned and another draft required if not acceptable due to formatting or other errors)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_14. Presentation (sales pitch to wealthy philanthropists)