Research Assignments

- Largely in social studies and English classes
- Vary by teacher
- Range of literary, social issue, and historical topics

9th Grade Sample: Banned Books
- Read a work that has been banned or challenged
- Research the reasons behind the book being challenged
- Take a stance on whether the book should be banned, providing primary and secondary source support

10th Grade Sample: Social Issue
- Form a research question around a social issue
- Research multiple perspectives on the issue
- Take a stance which you support with research
- Address competing arguments within your argument

11th Grade Sample: Short Story
- Read a short story through the lens of theme
- Look for use of literary techniques that further the theme
- Research literary criticism to support and extend your thinking
- Address potential competing arguments

12th Grade Sample: Influential Artist
- Choose an artist who has impacted society
- Research pertinent aspects of the artist’s life, subject matter, medium, and style
- Interpret at least two of the artist’s seminal works
- Synthesize your research and analysis into a thesis-driven paper evaluating your figure’s use of art to achieve a purpose

GOALS:

- Inquiry-based
- Argumentative edge
- Student choice
- Balance of research types
- Focus on ethical citation
- Use of prewriting strategies

Needs

- More consistency around inquiry approach
- Range of knowledge products
- Grade level uniformity to guarantee vertical alignment?

Is skill alignment sufficient for a unified high school research experience, or must content be consistent?