



What is an I-Search ?

This page gives you a brief description of each part of the I-Search. You can click on the individual pages to read detailed explanations of each part.

An I-Search is a research project which involves your best reading, writing, organizing, presenting and THINKING skills. The I-Search involves YOU as the designer of the project as well as an evaluator of your own work. In the course of doing your I-Search you become a project engineer -- in charge of your own destiny !

You and your teachers will participate in PHASES or STAGES in this unit. The skills and activities in Phase I prepare you for Phase II, and so on. Each phase or stage of this process builds your reading, researching and writing repertoire.

PHASE I : IMMERSION : Teachers and students explore a variety of skills to find out "what we know" and "what we would like to know." Students begin to formulate an idea for an I-Search adventure, form general questions and then design a list of key questions that "tax the taxonomy."

PHASE II : SEARCHING AND PLANNING : In this phase students design their search plans and develop a timetable or calendar to organize a plan of attack.

PHASE III : GATHERING THE GOODS : Now students are reading, researching, interviewing, surveying, viewing videos, taking photographs, and engaging in a variety of information-gathering activities.

PHASE IV : WRITING and PRESENTING : Students are ready to travel through the process of drafting, revising, editing and publishing all five parts of the I-Search. As a culminating activity students present their I-Search projects in a museum, conference, television program, or exhibit.

I-SEARCH COMPONENTS

The FIVE parts of the I-Search have distinct characteristics and purposes :

Part I : **My Questions** : You "pose" good questions to research and answer in your project.

Part II : **My Search Plan** : You design a "plan of attack" -- by compiling a list of resources for your research process.

Part III : **What I Have Learned** : You actually answer your Part I questions by drafting a series of paragraphs which describe and explain what you have discovered through your research. Part III is arranged in essay form, and could range from five paragraphs to several pages in length, depending on your topic.

Part IV : **What This Means to Me** : Here you can describe the research process and how it evolved as you contacted with and connected to more people and places. In Part IV you assess your strengths and weaknesses as a researcher, writer, thinker and publisher/presenter.

Part V : **My References** : This part is your Bibliography, completed in MLA format.

Additional Pages :

These are optional or required, depending on the assignment your teacher designs. READ carefully the I-Search project your teacher(s) design, and be sure to listen carefully as the requirements are discussed.

Cover : An original cover has : a graphic, illustration or phrase that relates to the research topic, the title of the project, and the writer's name.

Table of Contents : This page lists the five parts of the I-Search and the Appendix and the corresponding pages.

Dedication Page : Writers often dedicate their work to individuals who helped them with their writing, family members or mentors.

I-Search research projects focus on PROCESS as an important and equal component in student projects. The processes of reading, note-taking, organizing, and presenting will contribute to the final grade a project receives. In I-Search projects "ALL" work is important !