**7th Grade Research Assignment:**

**Making a Website**

*Introduction:*

The ability to conduct quality research is an important skill to master, especially in light of the ubiquity and growth of information technology, such as the Internet, in our lives today. Quality research includes being able to: find quality resources to answer to our own; discern the credibility of the information we come across in our search for these answers; and synthesize the information we gather to address our own purpose of that information. The importance of these skills becomes apparent in our own quests to be self-sufficient and self-informed learners but is increasingly becoming vital to the skill-sets required for several covetous 21st-century careers.

However, like all skills and talents, research must be practiced repeatedly in order for it to be refined and perfected. Thus, the purpose of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to practice your research skills in the context of a relevant topic.

*Your Assignment:*

Your assignment will be to create your own website on a specific **geopolitical issue** that is of significance in a particular region of the world. For example, you could pick a topic like:

* The population crisis in China or India
* Climate crisis in the Arctic/North Pole—ice caps melting
* Japan’s recovery from the earthquake and tsunami, particularly radioactivity levels from the nuclear plant spill
* A certain disease epidemic that might be plaguing a country (ex: AIDS in Africa)
* Child labor issues in a developing nation
* Socioeconomic disparity in Brazil
* Fight over land between two regions

Your website should have the following components incorporated into it:

* The following TYPES of pages (does not have to have the same names/titles):
  + Home Page
    - Welcome message
    - Brief introduction as to what this site is about and how to navigate it
  + About Us
    - Provide information as to why you’re an authority on this issue
      * *\*You may pretend to make up your own company or organization that is promoting a certain cause relating to this issue\**
  + 3 Separate Informational Pages
    - You will need to decide what 3 aspects of the issue you have chosen you’d like to cover
    - Each page will be dedicated to one of those aspects.
    - For each page you will need to provide detailed information **(about 1-2 paragraphs of 8 sentences at least)** about that aspect of the issue.
  + How to Help
    - Explain how a middle school student could help resolve this issue or get involved in efforts to resolve this issue
      * Ex: are there charities that seek to help this issue; could a student write a letter to a specific government official in his/her country/state/city?; is there a petition they can get adults to sign; how can they make other people more aware of the problem?
  + References/Bibliography
    - List all the resources you used in MLA format.

In order for you to create this website, you must conduct thorough and quality research. Whatever information you provide must be factual (except for the “About Us” section) and you must **back-up your claims with in-text citations**.

In order to demonstrate your preliminary research efforts, you will be required to provide:

* **Research notes**
  + 2 pages
  + Double-spaced
  + Bulleted list of notes
  + Times New Roman, size 12 font; Arial, size 10 font

Your website should also be aesthetically pleasing, well-designed for the target audience, and easy to navigate. In addition to the content of your information, you will be graded for the following:

* Use of color: color is appropriate to mood/topic
* Use of pictures and videos
* Language and structure of site is appropriate to target audience (middle school students)
* Ease of navigation/structure of site.s

For this project you will be working individually.

Your due dates will be assigned as we progress through this project.