

Valencia Elementary School
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To: Room 7 Parents and Students
From: Mr. Roman (mroman@erUSD.org)
Re: State Report Project

It is time for our 5th. Grade **State Project!** The students will be randomly selecting a state for which they will be preparing a formal report. The research will be graded in three different aspects: **Written Report, Fast Facts Poster, and Oral Presentation.**

Written Report.- Here is an outline of the expectations for their report:

Front Cover - title of the project, student name, school, room number, school year.

Page 1. Introduction - A general view of the state presented with historical facts.

Page 2 - Geographical Situation - Present the state with geographical information such as location, borders, rivers, lakes, mountains, etc. Start each body paragraph with a specific topic sentence, so the reader knows what are you talking about.

Page 3 - Economy - Include natural resources, industries, agricultural productivity, etc.

Page 4 - Famous Person - Mention fast facts of **ONE** famous person: an artist, a writer, a former president, a baseball player, etc. native of the state you are presenting (you may add more **NAMES** of other famous people, if any).

Page 5 - Other Interesting Facts - You can add the state nickname, state bird, description of the state flag, and other things you consider interesting.

Page 6 - Conclusion - What did you learn from this report? Would you like to visit this state? Why or why not?

Page 7 - List **ALL** your references using the *Modern Language Association* (MLA) format:

1. For Books

Author's last name, first name. *Book title* (use *italic font* and underline it; only underline if handwritten). Additional information. City of publication: Publishing company, publication date.

Example:

Allen, Thomas B. *Vanishing Wildlife of North America*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 1974.

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2. For Encyclopedia or Dictionary

Author's last name, first name. "Title of Article." *Title of Encyclopedia*. Date.

Note: If the dictionary or encyclopedia arranges articles alphabetically, you may omit volume and page numbers.

Example:

"Azimuthal Equidistant Projection." *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. 10th ed. 1993.

3. For Magazines and Newspapers

Author's last name, first name. "Article title." *Periodical title* Volume # Date: inclusive pages.

Example:

Hall, Trish. "IQ Scores Are Up, and Psychologists Wonder Why." *New York Times* 24 Feb. 1998, late ed.: F1+.

4. For Websites or Webpages

Author's last name, first name (if available). "Title of work within a project or database." *Title of site, project, or database*. Editor (if available). Electronic publication information (Date of publication or of the latest update, and name of any sponsoring institution or organization). Date of access and <full URL>.

Note: If you cannot find some of this information, cite what is available.

Examples:

Devitt, Terry. "Lightning injures four at music festival." *The Why? Files*. 2 Aug. 2001. 23 Jan. 2002 <<http://whyfiles.org/137lightning/index.html>>.

Fast Facts Poster.- On a standard 30x20 poster board (any color) students should include a map of the state, places of interest, state flag, etc. Pictures can be downloaded from the internet, photos, post cards, photocopies, or hand drawn.

Oral Presentation.- Student presents a summary of his work to the class using his/her own **Fast-Facts Poster** and notes on index cards. The presenter should be prepared to answer questions from the teacher or classmates.

The **Fast-Fact Poster** and index cards may be substituted with a **Power Point Presentation**. The Power Point Presentation should be between 10 and 15 slides and saved in a USB drive.

Important notes: You may add pictures to your written report. Use at least one book and one website as references (*wikipedia.com* is not considered a reliable source, you may use it in addition to another electronic source).

Use a **12 point font**.

Choose a font that is easy to read like: "Arial," "Lucida," "Modern," "Palermo" or "Times New Roman".

Scripted fonts are hard to read even if they do make your paper "Look nice".

If the student does not have access to a computer the report can be submitted in ink and legible penmanship.

Drafts Due Dates: April 8, 9, 10, 2014

Final Project Due Date: April 21, 2014