

## **Geography Research Project**

**Directions:** Students will follow the procedure outlined below in developing a research report organized around the five themes of geography on a designated country in Europe. **The Project is due March 10, 2014.** If you are not in school on that day, you are still expected to submit it to turnitin.com by the due date.

**STEP 1: Select a Country** – All students must select a country to research. Their selection will be approved and noted by the teacher. Once a student has selected his/her country, no other student in the class will be allowed to choose to that same country.

**STEP 2: Selecting and Assessing Sources** - Students must use a minimum of three sources outside of the textbook. They must then use their sources to find out information about their countries to prepare their report based on the guidelines listed below. Sources must be reliable (in other words contain accurate information). The following sites are examples of places that may be used by students towards this end:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html> (CIA World Factbook)

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country\\_profiles/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm) (BBC News Country Profiles)

<http://www.atlapedia.com/>

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/> (UN Human Development Reports – Countries)

*Note: Please do not feel limited to using these sites alone. However, do realize that if you use information from a website that is not accurate or correct, you will be held accountable and penalized accordingly. Wikipedia is NOT an acceptable source from which to get factual information about your country – though you may use it for images (just be sure to verify the images are accurate by cross-checking other sites).*

**STEP 3: Executing Research** – Students will need to use their sources in order to find information about their country needed to complete the “Preparing the Report” section below. Students must use the hard copy of the planning guide provided in class to take research notes.

**STEP 4: Preparing the Report** – Students’ reports must be prepared using the format outlined below. Students must use the planning guide provided on your instructor’s quia page to create the report.

### **General Instructions-**

1. Each set of pages (with the exception of the title page) must be labeled according to the headings below. For example in the upper right hand corner of page two, the header “Location” should appear. The header “Place” should appear at the tops of pages three through five of your report, and so on. All pages (except for the title page) must be numbered.
2. All pages (except title) should be titled using the section headings that appear bolded in the report format section page. For example, page two of your report should be titled “Country Map”. The title should be centered on the page and appear in bolded font.
3. Students should use 12 point font, double spaced and one inch margins when typing their reports.
4. Students must put all information in their own words. Students MAY NOT copy and paste material from websites for this project, or copy material word for word from a non-internet source. This is an individual project. Students may not share their work, or collaborate with others on this project. Students who are found to have plagiarized their work, or provided information to other students will be punished accordingly under the school’s policy for academic dishonesty (see pages of student handbook regarding academic dishonesty).
5. Information in the report should be written in complete, grammatically correct sentences. Students should organize their information into paragraphs of 4-6 sentences in length.

## **Report Format-**

**1. Page 1: Title Page** – All students must include a title page. The title page serves as the first page of the report and should contain the following information:

- **Personal Information:** In the upper right hand corner of the title page the student's name should appear on the first line. The name of the class – Geography, should appear on the second line. The class period should appear on the third line. The date should appear on the fourth line.
- **Title:** The title of the report must appear on this page in a large, bolded font. Your title must include the name of the country you researched. It should also make a statement based on the information you found in the course of your research about the country.
- **Image:** The title page should include an image of, or from your chosen country (No maps for this).

**2. Page 2: Location**

- **Country Map and Description of Location** – A clearly printed political map of your chosen country
  1. Underneath the map, a brief written description of the absolute and relative location of your chosen country. For the absolute location, use the coordinates of your country's capital. For relative location, identify the countries surrounding your country.

**3. Pages 3-5: Place**

- **Description of Physical Geography (page 3)**
  1. A written description of your country's physical geography. Be sure to include a description of the:
    - \* landforms
    - \* ecosystems
    - \* climate
- **Description of Human Geography (pages 4-5)**
  1. A written description of the "human" characteristics of your country. For example, your summary of human geography should include (but not be limited to) information about the country's population, language, customs, political system, etc....

**4. Pages (6 -7): Region**

- **Identification and Description of Region**
  1. Identify (northern, western, eastern, southern Europe) the region in Europe in which your country is located.
  2. Compare and contrast your country with other neighboring countries within its region. What does your country have in common with neighboring countries in terms of its physical (ex: landscape, resources, size) and human geography (ex: history, language, general standards of living like GDP, literacy rate, life expectancy)?

**5. Page 8: Movement**

- **Identification and description of movement in human and economic terms.**
  1. Identify the net migration rate for your country.
  2. Identify three major imports and exports.
  3. Who are your countries major trading partners for importing and exporting?
  4. How has/does movement affect your country? *For example, if your country has experienced an influx of immigrants from another part of the world, how has it affected the political and social climate? Or, if you country is dependent on imports, has your country struggled economically because it is overly dependent on imports?*

## 6. Page 9: Human-Environment Interaction

- **Description of how people of the country have shaped its land.**
  1. What environmental challenges brought on by humans interaction with their environment does your country face? Identify some of the environmental issues your country faces. Examples of potential issues for discussion could include: pollution, erosion, shortages of resources, overcrowding.
  2. Next, discuss efforts by your country to address some of the effects of people on their environment. For example, has your country's government taken any steps to curb problems with pollution?

**STEP 5: Citing Sources** – Students must include a works cited page (PAGE 10) at the end of their report as well as use internal citations.

\*Students are required to use MLA format in citing their sources.

**Basic MLA Works Cited Information: Alphabetical order, hanging indent.**

<b>Book</b> Last name, First name. <i>Title of Book</i> . Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Print.	<b>Citation (Last name page).</b>
<b>Web</b> Author if Available, "Title of Webpage." <i>Title of Website</i> . Publishing Organization, Date Month Abbreviated. Year updated. Web. Date Month Abbreviated. Year Accessed. <u>Full Url address</u> .	<b>(Author if available- if not "Title").</b>

**Citing sources in the text** - In MLA style, references to sources are placed in the text of the paper to briefly identify sources for readers and enable them to locate the source of the cited information in the Works Cited list. The information appears in parentheses, at the end of the sentence where the cited material appears (see example in the chart above).

- For print sources, the authors last name, and the page number on which you found the material would appear in parentheses at the end of a sentence. Ex: (Doe 78).
- Electronic and online sources are cited just like print resources in references cited in the text. If an online source lacks numbering, omit numbers from the parenthetical references. If a source includes fixed page numbers or section numbering, such as numbering of paragraphs (pars.), cite the relevant numbers. Ex: (Smith). **\*For internet sources with no author, include in the text the first item that appears in the Work Cited entry that corresponds to the citation** (e.g. author name, article name, website name (not full URL), film name).
- ✓ *A useful web resource to help students with putting their citations in proper format is [www.citationmachine.net](http://www.citationmachine.net).*
- ✓ *Purdue University's Online Writing Lab also has a great deal of information on how to properly format citations for sources. <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>*
- ✓ *A useful site for learning to properly quote, paraphrase or summarize material can be found at: <http://www.slideshare.net/donnalevy/using-quotations-paraphrases-and-summaries-in-essays>*

**STEP 6: Submit Report to Turnitin** – Students must submit their reports to turnitin.com. Students must attach a copy of their turnitin.com receipt when they turn in their projects. Students must use their student gmail accounts for submission. Visit your instructor's quia page for directions, and to retrieve the Class ID and password.

## Geography Research Project Grade Sheet

***NOTE: In order to receive the maximum points for each component of the project, it is VERY important that students carefully follow the directions on the assignment sheet.***

### **Format/Style 16 points**

1. A turnitin.com receipt was provided \_\_\_/1
2. A header appeared on each page (except title page) \_\_\_/1
3. A title appeared (centered) on each page \_\_\_/1
4. All pages (except title page) were Numbered and in order \_\_\_/1
5. 12 point font, double spaced and one inch margins were used \_\_\_/2
6. Proper grammar and sound sentence structure were used \_\_\_/10

### **Citations – 15 points**

1. Three legitimate sources outside of the textbook were used \_\_\_/3
2. A “Works Cited Page” using proper MLA format was included at the end of the report \_\_\_/5
3. Internal citations using MLA format appeared at a minimum of once per paragraph throughout the report \_\_\_/7

### **Content – 59 points**

1. ***Title Page – 3 points***
  - a. Student’s name, class, class period, and date in upper right-hand corner \_\_\_/1
  - b. Title of the project named country and reflected content \_\_\_/1
  - c. Quality image of or from the country \_\_\_/1
2. ***Location Pages –6 points***
  - a. Political Map of the country \_\_\_/1
  - b. Identification of absolute location \_\_\_/2
  - c. Accurate and adequate description of country’s relative location \_\_\_/3

### ***3. Place Pages – 20 points***

- a. An accurate and adequate description of landforms, ecosystems, and climate of your country \_\_\_/10 points
- b. An accurate and adequate description of your country’s human geography \_\_\_/10

### ***4. Region Page – 10 points***

- a. Accurate identification of region \_\_\_/2
- b. Compare/contrast with neighboring countries \_\_\_/8

### ***5. Movement Page – 10 points***

- a. Accurate identification of net migration rate \_\_\_/2
- b. Accurate identification of your country’s major imports and exports \_\_\_/2
- c. Accurate identification of country’s top trading partners \_\_\_/2
- d. Discussion of how movement of people and goods has affected your country \_\_\_/4

### ***6. Human/Environment Interaction Page – 10 points***

- a. Accurate identification and description of environmental challenges your country faces \_\_\_/5
- b. Discussion of how these challenges have affected your country and the government’s response to them \_\_\_5

### **Teacher Observation of Classwork – 10 points**

Student has utilized class time well and has completed research on the planning guide for each individual component of the project by the check in date \_\_\_/10