**The What I’ve Learned Guide**

The What I Learned section is the actual formal research paper. You will be making a shift in register, from a more personal, causal one in which you use the words ‘I’ and ‘my’ to a more formal one, in which you don’t. It will involve writing an:

1. *Introduction* that goes from general and narrows down to your thesis (your guiding question rephrased into a statement),
2. *Body Paragraphs* organized, *not by sources* as was done in the Research Journey, but rather, by ideas and concepts discovered in your sources and identified in your thesis, and a
3. *Conclusion* that revisits your thesis and provides an extension that punches home your ‘so what.’

You will need to ***support your new learning with evidence pulled from your sources and you need to cite those sources in your text***.

**Format:**

1. Header: Name, Block #, Date
2. Title: **What I’ve Learned** bolded and centered
3. Introduction: Begin by introducing your topic and going from general to specific and ending with your thesis. Your thesis is derived from your approved guiding question. That question is changed into a statement.



1. Body Paragraphs 3 - ?: Synthesize all the new knowledge you have learned by focusing on the major findings you uncovered in your search. Structure your paper according to the categories established by your thesis. Each paragraph should address a major idea or concept discovered during your research.

For example, if your guiding question focuses on factors that led to your topic and what is being done to address the problem, then one of your body paragraphs will begin with a *topic sentence* that goes something like this: *One of the factors that lead to \_\_\_\_\_\_ is (name the factor).* It is common that each factor would have its own paragraph. After you have discussed all the factors you would then begin a body paragraph with a *topic sentence* that addresses what is being done to address the problem. It might read something like this: *Fortunately, there are organizations that are trying to help.* You would then discuss all the organizations that are working to solve the issue.

In each paragraph, share the knowledge you have gained and opinions you have formulated as a result of that new found knowledge and be sure to support them with examples, stories, or arguments that you found in your sources and that will help the reader understand how you arrived at those conclusions. Be sure to credit the sources from which you have pulled information and distinguish their ideas from your own by citing your sources in your text. You can achieve this by using the academic transitions provided or by following the rules for parenthetical citations outlined by MLA.

1. Conclusion: Conclude your paper with a brief summary of what you have learned and why it is important. Be sure to refer back to your thesis. This is where you emphasize the ‘So What’ of your paper.

**Final Note - Reflection on the Process:** After you have completed writing your paper, write a short reflection on the I-Search process. Tell the story of your experience as you moved through this project. Do you feel that you have learned more about your topic than you knew before you started? Did you learn more about the process of researching than you knew before? What challenges did you face? Did you experience any Aha! moments? Do you feel you are more of an expert on your topic now that you have gone through the process? Do you think you learned anything from having gone through this process that will serve you well in high school, college, and life? This reflection should be filled with your personal thoughts and your feelings. You can be honest, just don’t be brutal. :o) Discuss new questions that arose during your research and why those questions were of interest to you. What old knowledge was challenged? How did that make you feel? Feel free to draw conclusions and formulate opinions but you must support your conclusions with evidence from your sources. Remember it is imperative that you cite the evidence you use. You may also include a personal comment on the I-Search process and any value you see in its ability to help you grow as a learner.



**Parenthetical citations (In text citations)**

***MLA citations require author and page numbers.***

**Definition:** the process of acknowledging the works of others within your text.

**Purpose:** to assist the reader in finding the information for him or herself, verify that the information is accurate, and gives credit to the person who actually wrote the material.

**Where:** placed immediately following a ***quotation*** from a source or a ***paraphrase*** of a source’s ideas.

***When to cite:*** *Immediately following a quotation from a source or a paraphrase of a source’s ideas*

1. *If you have an author but no page number you use the author’s name.*
2. *If you have no author*



***In-Text Citations for a Book, Website, or Database with an author and a page #.***

***How to cite:***

* *If you have an author and a page #, you place the author’s name followed by a space and then the page # in parenthesis.*
* *If you mention the author’s name in the text you need only the page number in parenthesis.*

1. Green eggs and ham can be very delicious when served on a boat (Seuss 4). *{paraphrase}*
2. According to Dr. Seuss there are people who do not like green eggs and ham (1). *{paraphrase with author’s name identified in text}*
3. Like Romeo, he felt “What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other word would smell as sweet” (Shakespeare 86). *{direct quotation}*



1. Shakespeare’s play Romeo and Juliet is best known for the quote, “That which we call a rose by any other word would smell as sweet” (86). *{direct quotation with author identified in text}*

***In-Text Citations for a Website, or Database with an author but no page #.***

***How to cite:***

* *If you have an author but no page #, you place the author’s name in parenthesis.*
* *If you mention the author’s name in the text you do not need a citation.*

1. Green eggs and ham can be very delicious when served on a boat (Seuss). *{paraphrase}*
2. According to Dr. Seuss there are people who do not like green eggs and ham. *{paraphrase with author’s name identified in text}*
3. Like Romeo, he felt “What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other word would smell as sweet.” (Shakespeare) *{direct quotation}*
4. Shakespeare’s play Romeo and Juliet is best known for the quote, “That which we call a rose by any other word would smell as sweet.” *{direct quotation with author identified in text}*

***In-Text Citations for a Website with no author or page #.***

***How to cite:***

* *If you have no author and no page #, you place the title of the website in quotations and that in parenthesis.*

1. Green eggs and ham can be very delicious when served on a boat (“Dr. Seuss”). *{paraphrase}*
2. According to Dr. Seuss there are people who do not like green eggs and ham (“Seussville”). *{paraphrase with author’s name identified in text}*
3. Like Romeo, he felt “What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other word would smell as sweet” (“Romeo and Juliet”). *{direct quotation}*
4. Shakespeare’s play Romeo and Juliet is best known for the quote, “That which we call a rose by any other word would smell as sweet” (“Romeo and Juliet”). *{direct quotation with author identified in text}*

***When Citation is not necessary***

You do not need to use in text citations from familiar proverbs, well-know quotations, or common knowledge (common knowledge refers to things that almost all of your audience would already know.