Science Research Summer Assignment – to be completed before the Sophomore Year

Dear Applicant,

The following assignment must be completed by the **first Friday of school in September**. Failure to complete this assignment to the satisfaction of your Science Research teacher will result in being placed on probation for the first quarter in the Science Research program.

1. Search out and read at least seven (7) general articles and three (3) journal articles on the topic you like best.
2. Each article must be a minimum of 6 paragraphs in length. Each article should be no more than 5 years old (unless approved by one of the science research teachers).
3. Please follow these steps for each article:
   - Print a copy of the article.
   - Highlight key ideas.
   - Use the correct article matrix (**magazine and journal sample attached**) and fill out **completely**. Additional article matrices are available under **Resources** on the Science Research echalk page.
   - Attach the article matrix to the article.
   - Hole-punch the article and the attached matrix
   - Place the article in your portfolio (a 3-inch, 3-ring binder).
   **Bring your portfolio to class on the first day of school in September**

   ✗ All articles must be related to a topic of interest. Feel free to change your focus of interest. However, your presented work in September must fulfill the requirements for a focused area topic.

4. Email Ms. Foisy (mfoisy@nyackschools.org) and/or Mrs. Kleinman (kkleinman@nyackschools.org) if you have any questions. Ms. O'Hagan's email is dohagan@nyackschools.com

**What is a general article?**

General articles can come from popular magazines, papers, websites, and television documentaries. Make sure websites are reputable: a website ending in '.org' or '.edu' is generally reputable, whereas a website ending in '.com' may be questionable. Examples include *Popular Science*, Tuesday's *Science Times* section from *The NY Times*, *Discover* magazine, PBS's NOVA website, and many others.

**What is a Journal Article?**

Journal articles are peer reviewed. This means that a committee of experts in a particular field have analyzed the published article and accepted it as science that is authentic and supported with acceptable data. Journal articles are complete with an abstract, introduction, methods, results, and discussion sections. These articles are hard to read and understand at first. Your best method of obtaining them is to speak to a librarian about your interests.

To acknowledge your understanding of the assignment, please **return this document with the necessary signatures to Ms. O'Hagan in the library**. A copy will be made for you. Keep your copy in your Science Research portfolio. The original will go to the Science Research teacher.

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Student signature __________________________ Date _____________

Parent/Guardian signature __________________________ Date _____________