

Teacher's Guide--PowerPoint Templates for Student Mini-Research Presentations

Integrate 21st Century Learning and Assessment--The 21st Century skills initiative and most state standards require that students use technology to search for information, organize, analyze, synthesize it, and then present it to audiences. This type of performance-based assessment is increasing in popularity as technology helps to support this research-proven way of learning.

PowerPoint Presentations by Students—PowerPoints, *used effectively*, have been a staple of business presentations for a decade. Now that same technology can benefit students as they demonstrate their learning and critical thinking beyond textbooks and multiple choice testing.

Teachers Need Models to Share with Students—ProQuest understands that it needs to support teachers with models to help transition from textbook to inquiry-based learning and assessment. ProQuest now provides two models for students and teachers to adapt for their PowerPoint presentations: The *Engaging Issues* template; and the *Essential Questions* template. These models will guide students and teachers to create effective presentations no matter what the topic, issue, or ProQuest product being used. When used effectively, the templates will . . .

1. Ensure a logical sequence of slides to help increase audience interest and understanding
2. Integrate critical thinking that results in original thought and reasoned conclusions
3. Integrate opportunities to present student-selected facts to support their conclusions
4. Integrate opportunities for including multimedia and visuals when appropriate
5. Ensure presentations are limited to 3 minutes
6. Ensure that the teacher and all students know the criteria for assessing the presentation

Student mini-research guidelines in preparing for the presentation:

1. Students must select a minimum of 5 topic/issue relevant resources through their research
2. Essential questions assigned by the teacher must be phrased to integrate higher-order thinking skills: (<http://fno.org/feb07/topic.html>)
3. Essential questions can be developed by the teacher or in conjunction with the student through brainstorming
4. Students need to copy and paste citations and essential information from each resource they select into a **Draft Summary** document (limit to 2 pages), then get it approved and signed by the teacher <http://www.proquestk12.com/lsm/pqelib/pdfs/antiplagguide.pdf> (see pages, bottom 14, 15-16)
5. Students present their signed Draft Summary to the teacher *prior* to the presentation to ensure authenticity and reduce plagiarism
6. Teachers can include a brief period of student questioning after each presentation

Two Types of Research with Templates to Support Student Presentations:

Engaging Issues Template – One of the goals of student research is to resolve a controversial issue in Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, etc. This template is designed to support such a presentation. It focuses students to review both sides of the issue and then requires them to resolve the issue and justify their position with facts and expert opinion.

Essential Questions Template – Another goal of student research is to understand a specific topic that contributes to an overall understanding of a larger concept or idea in any academic subject. Too often these topical assignments result in copy/paste rewrites of encyclopedia articles with little real content learning and critical thinking. This template focuses student research on answering at least 3 higher-order essential questions based on Bloom's Taxonomy. The teacher develops these either independently or through brainstorming with the student. By answering these questions, students learn both academic content and develop the critical thinking skills they will need in future education, life, and careers.