

Lesson Blueprints: Writing Project

Resource: Research: List of Suggested SEL Topics + Rubric

Grade Level: Middle and High School

Research Topics

The following are general research and debate topics for students involved in social emotional learning programs. A writing rubric is included for writing research papers.

- Alcohol/Underage drinking
- Animal rights
- Benefits of failure
- Benefits of recess/activity
- Bullying
- Censorship
- Cheating/Plagiarism
- College or Career Education?
- Cosmetic Surgery
- Dating: Appropriate age, dating issues
- Decline of interpersonal communication
- Discrimination and Profiling (race, gender, religion, etc.)
- Immigration
- Education: Right or Privilege; Mandatory Schooling; Importance of Attendance
- Empathy
- Environmental Issues
- Hazing
- Healthy lifestyles
- Heroin and other addictive drug abuse
- Gender identity
- Internet Safety/Power of the Internet
- Managing stress
- Mental Health
- Narcissism
- Rape
- Relationship skills
- Responsible Decision Making
- Marketing and Advertising: Marketing to children, Banned Ads, Brushed Up Photos
- Screen Addiction
- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Social Media
- Smoking
- Stereotyping
- Steroids/Steroid use
- Testing in Schools

Research Writing Rubric

Student: _____

Topic: _____

Category	4	3	2	1	Score
Research Quality Information from reputable sources	Student includes facts and quotations from reliable sources. Student paraphrases work appropriately. Includes research from subject-matter experts.	Student includes facts, conclusions, and opinions from reliable sources.	Student includes a mixture of facts from reliable sources and opinions from unreliable sources.	Student includes more opinion than fact. Information taken from unreliable sources.	
Writing – Ideas Interesting Informative Details	Student includes unique, interesting details that relate to and support subject. Writing includes information based on fact.	Student includes many interesting details that support the subject. Writing includes interesting information.	Student includes three or more details that support the subject.	Student includes little or no details to support subject.	
Content – Creativity Unique Delivery	Project demonstrates student’s own interpretation and expression of research material. Uses pictures, images, or other visual aids to display information in a variety of ways.	Project uses student-created materials as well as existing material from other sources. Student devises creative way to design and/or deliver project.	Information is factual but shows little student interpretation. Project is based primarily on sample work. Student adds one or more original ideas.	Project is based on sample work. No original ideas are present.	
Writing – Technical Grammar, Punctuation and word choice	Excellent presentation, style, grammar, and punctuation.	Style, purpose, audience, grammar, and punctuation all fair and indicative.	Information mislabeled or missing, inaccurate punctuation or grammar.	Grammar, punctuation, and choice of words are poor.	
					Total