Romeo and Juliet Research

We are going to extend our knowledge of Romeo and Juliet by completing a short research project (Yay!). Choose a topic that interests you! Below are topic suggestions. If there is a different topic that has struck a chord with you throughout our reading of Romeo and Juliet, you may research that topic as long as you get teacher approval first. Once you select a topic, you may find that you will have to narrow the topic as you do research. There are two different time periods to take into consideration when researching your topic: 1) the 1300s, which is the setting of Romeo and Juliet and 2) the late 1500s–early 1600s, which is when Shakespeare lived in Elizabethan England.

Suggested Research Topics

- Music
- Fashion
- Culinary Tastes and Methods
- Fencing
- Parties and Dancing
- Social Class
- Women
- Marriage and Courtship
- Education
- Mythology/Astrology
  - (You could look up gods/goddesses and mythical beings—ex. Cupid, Diana, Queen Mab or you could focus on the importance of mythology and astrology)
- Religious beliefs of Elizabethan England
  - (Catholicism, Anglican Church, or Puritanism)
- Holidays
  - (ex. Lent, Lammas Eve, Twelfth Night, Pentecost)
- History of Italian feuds and vendettas/gangs
- The Black Plague
  - (also known as the Bubonic Plague or Black Death)
- Elizabethan England Crime, Punishment, and Law
- Popular forms of Renaissance Architecture
- Shakespeare’s Biography
- Satire in Romeo and Juliet
- Different interpretations and productions of Romeo and Juliet
- Queen Elizabeth’s influence upon Shakespeare
- Acting Troupes
- The Globe Theater
- Evolution of the English Language
- Suicide
- Evolution of Marriage
Research Requirements

- **Step 1: Brainstorm**
  - I will provide you with a brainstorming worksheet.
  - On Thursday, May 3 or Friday, May 4, you will conference with me about brainstorm!

- **Step 2: Research**
  - You **must** use the following:
    - A journal or newspaper article
    - An article from a credible website (remember what Ms. Kuhar taught us about evaluating websites!)
    - A book or an e-book
  - You may also use:
    - Evidence from the 1968 or 1997 film versions of *Romeo and Juliet* that we viewed in class
    - Interview
    - Art

- **Step 3: Create Bibliography**
  - You must submit a bibliography
  - Follow MLA Format

- **Step 4: Final Product**
  - Must demonstrate the results of your research
  - Must make connections between your research and *Romeo and Juliet*
  - Must contain at least three text references from your research (whether they are worked into your final presentation (ex. song, poem, painting, essay, etc.) OR in an accompanying written explanation)
  - Must be shared with the class in a brief one minute presentation demonstrating what you learned and how it connects to *Romeo and Juliet*

Presentation Options

- **Song**
  - You must give me a copy of your song lyrics before you perform it.
  - Your song lyrics must have endnotes accompanying it with text references and explanation.

- **Artistic Representation** (painting, sculpture, etc.)
  - You must write a paragraph that explains how your artwork portrays your research and contains at least three text references.

- **Poem**
  - You must give me a copy of your poem before you perform it.
  - Your poem must have endnotes accompanying it with text references and explanation.

- **Prezi**
  - I have the Prezi password you created in November if you need it 😉
  - Your Prezi must either have written explanation with text references embedded in the presentation or a written explanation accompanying it.

- **Glogster**
  - Your Glogster must either have written explanation with text references embedded in the presentation or a written explanation accompanying it.

- **Photo Story**
  - Your Photo Story must have a written explanation with text references accompanying it.

- **Essay**
  - This option reinforces the research writing skills we learned 3rd quarter.