Focusing Your Research

The research paper is the student’s record of work done to prepare the exhibit. Here is what the student should include:

* title page
* name, grade and school
* research questions
* table of contents
* written and visual information
* graphs, tables, and charts
* glossary (if necessary)
* bibliography and acknowledgements
* topic conclusion and interpretation
* one page “personal reflection” which addresses three important learning attributes:
  + What has the student learned?
  + How has the student’s project skills applied to his/her daily life?
  + Why is the topic still important in today’s world?

# Questions for Research: Consider the 5 Ws and the How

Create 10 to 12 questions to guide your research. Use the 5W’s and the H to help guide your questions. For example:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Who? | Why? | Where? | When? | What? | How? |
| Who was Louis Riel?  Who were his parents? | Why did Riel become famous?  Why did he fight against the government? | Where was Riel born?  Where was he educated?  Where did Riel escape to? | When was he born?  When was Riel executed?  Other important dates? | What is Riel famous for?  What was life like for the Métis people in Manitoba? | How did Riel influence life in Manitoba?  How did the Métis people feel about Riel? |

Now your own (10-12 questions):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Who? | Why? | Where? | When? | What? | How? |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

# Organizing Your Report

Next, take the questions and create categories. These categories will help organize and focus your report.

For example:

* Riel’s Background
* Influence on Manitoba
* Condition of the Métis People
* The Métis and Riel
* Riel’s Final Days

**ALL PROJECTS MUST HAVE AN INRODUCTION (WHY YOU CHOSE THIS TOPIC), BODY (YOUR RESEARCH), AND CONCLUSION (YOUR FINAL THOUGHTS).**