

The Mysteries of the Universe

Research Presentation

On your own or with a partner, you will research and prepare a presentation examining one of the following mysteries of the universe. Ideally, you will **present these to the class**. Other options need to be discussed with and approved by Mr. Robson.

Only one person/group per topic, so you need to choose your topic ASAP and TELL Mr. ROBSON! If another person/group has claimed your topic already, you need to choose a new one.

Possible Topics:

Atlantis	Crop Circles
The Bermuda Triangle	Stonehenge
Sasquatch/Yeti/Bigfoot	Reincarnation
The Egyptian Pyramids (building)	Miracles
The Loch Ness Monster	Vampires
The Holy Grail	Zombies
Ghosts/Apparitions/Poltergeists	Pirate Treasure
Auras	Mutants
Dreams	Magic
ESP	Psychokinesis
Destiny/Fate	Aliens
Easter Island	UFOs

If you have another topic you'd like to suggest, it must be cleared by Mr. Robson BEFORE you begin.

Your presentation should deal with the following:

- A detailed explanation of the mystery surrounding your topic
- Different theories that have developed, BOTH PROVING AND DISPROVING your mystery
- Include some famous stories/examples of this mystery
- Your opinion/explanation. Which theory do you believe?

OVER: →

You should present this the same way that a typical mystery story is laid out, with a **predictable structure**: present the mystery, outline the clues, then present possible solutions/explanations, including your own.

You will need to include **RELIABLE sources of information** (AT LEAST 3. Even that might not be enough.)

DO NOT COPY AND PASTE ANYTHING. Any plagiarism will result in lost marks and possibly a zero. Take point form notes based on your sources of information and then write something **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**. Teachers have kind of a sixth sense about these things, so be very careful with this one.

You may wish to include **visual elements** (pictures, charts, maps, video clips, etc.) because they will make your presentation much more interesting and informative.

DUE: Presentations will ideally take place **November 21 & 22**. You must have something in before your report card is written on November 23, or else you will have a zero and it will affect your mark a great deal. A good job on this will help your report card mark. Not completing it... not good.

The amount of class time you get for this will be dependent on how effectively people are using their time in class. If it seems like everyone is working on this, we will keep going with it every class until then. If it seems like we aren't doing much, we'll move on to other things and this will still be due **BEFORE** November 23.

You will be assessed using the following ELA categories:

Reading: The student makes meaning before, during, and after reading, listening, and viewing a variety of oral, literary, and media texts.

Speaking/Representing: The student communicates his/her own understanding through writing, speaking, and representing to learn and to communicate with others.

Critical Thinking: The student applies thinking skills to interpret and evaluate ideas and information; explores and researches big ideas and questions about self, others, and the world.

And, of course, I'll be watching for proper rules of grammar and deducting marks for fragments, run-ons, and simple errors that you should by now know to avoid.