Stonington High School 21ˢᵗ Century Learning Summer Assignment

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Adopted May, 2016

The Stonington High School
Incoming Junior Summer Assignment

Purpose:
The mission of Stonington High School is to foster a lifelong pursuit of learning. The summer is the perfect time to extend the classroom beyond the confines of Stonington High School. Our expectation is that our students will engage in meaningful, authentic learning experiences that they will share with their classmates at the start of each school year. It is in this spirit that Stonington High School has transitioned from a Summer Reading Assignment to a new Summer Learning Experience that will incorporate the 21st Century Learning Expectations embedded in our traditional classroom learning.

Learning Expectations:
Stonington High School expects that our graduates will use the 21st Century Skills to:
1. Convince: Use critical thinking skills and a variety of relevant evidence to solve a problem, support a position, or present an idea.
2. Communicate: Use content area language clearly to convey ideas as an individual. Communicate with others in a way that facilitates a collaborative process.
3. Consider: Use all learning to develop innovative and/or creative options to solve challenging situations and/or problems.
4. Connect: Use technology to find, evaluate, create and/or share information, ethically and legally. Connect all learning to become a participative member in the social and civic community.

Overview:
Each year Stonington High School students will report on a learning experience related to an assigned 21st CLE. Each grade level will be responsible for addressing one of the 4Cs as identified below. We want our students to use their sense of exploration and personal interaction with the world around them to choose how they will meet the expectations of their 4C. Students entering their senior year should refer to the Senior Project materials to determine their summer assignment.

Students must document their experiences. However, students also have a choice regarding how they do this. A list of possible means for documentation has also been attached to this packet. Upon returning to school in August, students will be expected to present their Summer Assignment work in their Advisory rooms to their classmates.

Presentation Suggestions:
· The Summer Assignment is meant to provide students with options. Please take the time to review the suggested learning experiences and modes of documentation carefully. Students should choose activities that interest them.
· Students are encouraged to complete these activities with family, friends, and classmates. We hope families will actively participate in some of these activities with their students.
· We encourage students to come up with their own ideas for learning experiences and activities. If you have questions regarding a potential idea, please contact the principal.
· Please exercise common sense and good judgment when completing the Summer Assignment. Students and families should discuss the Summer Assignment and plan learning experiences together. Safety and proper supervision are the responsibility of the student's parents/guardians.

NOTES:
· All SHS students are expected to complete the Summer Assignment.
· Students taking Advanced Placement/ECE or some Honors courses may be required to complete additional summer assignments.

--CONNECT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-

Conduct a search on a topic that interests you and is school appropriate. Use the Internet to access information on the topic. Find five different web sites that contain information about your topic and evaluate which of these is the most valid source and which is the least credible. Determine what information is most useful to you and use MLA format to properly cite the sources. A format for logging your search process on paper is included. You should be prepared to present and explain your process and your conclusions to your advisory group.

Example of Learning Experiences (possible searches):
-College choices   - Major Purchases (Car, House, Vacation)   -Social or Environmental Issues

Examples of Documentation: (A worksheet to log your search results is included and will be handed in on the day of your presentation. You should also decide how you will discuss your results and conclusions with your advisory group.)
This list is in no way meant to be exhaustive. It is simply to serve as a jumping off point.

Write about it: keep a journal; write a blog; write a news article; write a letter; write an opinion piece; write a critique or review; create a google slideshow/PowerPoint
Take a picture of it: create a photo essay or collage; make a video or a vlog (video blog)
Be artistic about it: create a scrapbook
Be scientific: create a chart, graph, or table

Assessment: During the first week of school, you will present your learning in your advisory group. Your presentation should meet the standards listed below.

Connect/Communicate Summer Assignment Rubric	
Criteria - Connect	**Meets Standard**
Finding Information Using Technology	Uses typical searches effectively for the task, purpose and/or audience
Evaluate information Accessed with Technology	Evaluates credibility and accuracy of all information gathered from digital sources
Use Technology Ethically and Legally	Ethical and legal use of digital information (i.e., privacy, security, copyright, file sharing, and/or plagiarism
Criteria COMMUNICATE (Individual)	**Meets Standard**
Organize Ideas	Organizes ideas and/or information in a structure that shows a logical progression of ideas from beginning to end
Exhibit Fluency	Uses language that is generally appropriate for the audience and purpose.

NOTES:
· All SHS students are expected to complete the Summer Assignment.
· Students taking Advanced Placement/ECE or some Honors courses may be required to complete additional summer assignments.

Connect Information Technology Essential Facts and Worksheet

Before you use any website as a source of information for your own knowledge or for a school-related paper or project, you should be certain that the site is valid and the information found there is credible. Our librarian has shown you where to find the most valid and trustworthy sources of information on the information databases to which the library subscribes. However, there are times when a piece of information you need or a type of question you are trying to answer is best found on the Web itself. Therefore, it is essential that you understand the types of websites available and know the types of questions you should consider before determining that you can trust a website or the information found on that website.

The information that follows will help you evaluate websites. The pages that follow this information will allow you to document and assess the sites you visit for your summer learning experiences. You will hand in these sheets along with your final decisions about the value of the sites you found.

Types of Websites

1. **An Advocacy Web Page** is one sponsored by an organization attempting to influence public opinion (that is, one trying to sell ideas). The URL address of the page frequently ends in **.org** (organization).
2. **A Business/Marketing Web Page** is one sponsored by a commercial enterprise (usually it is a page trying to promote or sell products). The URL address of the page frequently ends in **.com** (commercial).
3. **A News Web Page** is one whose primary purpose is to provide extremely current and factual information. The URL address of the page usually ends in **.com** (commercial). If there are adds on the site they do not influence the authority of the content
4. **An Informational Web Page** is one whose purpose is to present factual information. The URL Address frequently ends in **.edu** or **.gov**, as many of these pages are sponsored by educational institutions or government agencies.
5. **A Personal Web Page** is one published by an individual who may or may not be affiliated with a larger institution. Although the URL address of the page may have a variety of endings (e.g. *.com, .edu*, *.net* etc.), a **tilde (~)** is frequently embedded somewhere in the URL.

Note that there is no guarantee that you can trust a website based on its URL address alone. The key word in each of these descriptions is that the URL address "usually" or "frequently" stands for a particular type of Web page. However, there are businesses that use .org URL addresses and others groups who use URL addresses to appear valid.

Further, groups that use the org. URL may have biased and inaccurate information based on their views.

Finally, various news agencies have their own approach to reporting events and incidents across the country. Just because a piece is found on a news site does not mean it is unbiased—or for that matter accurate, since news agencies often report material that has not be fact-checked or that are published before all the details have come to light.

This is why it is essential to evaluate websites and the materials found on those websites carefully. It is also why you should look at several sites and, perhaps, confirm information you have found with reputable print sources or databases before determining that the information is trustworthy.

MLA and Websites

The Owl Purdue Online Writing Lab, lists the information you will need in order to write an MLA citation for a Webpage. Owl warns: "Not every Web page will provide all of the following information."
*   Author and/or editor names (if available)
*   Article name in quotation marks (if applicable)
*   Title of the website, project, or book in italics. (Remember that some Print publications have Web publications with slightly different names. They may, for example, include the additional information or otherwise modified information, like domain names [e.g. .com or .net].)
*   Any version numbers available, including revisions, posting dates, volumes, or issue numbers.
*   Publisher information, including the publisher name and publishing date.
*   Take note of any page numbers (if available).
*   Medium of publication.
*   Date you accessed the material.
*   URL (if required, or for your own personal reference; MLA does not require a URL).
    Remember to use *n.p.* if no publisher name is available and *n.d.* if no publishing date is given.

Russell, Tony, et. al. "MLA Works Cited: Electronic Sources (Web Publications)." *Owl Purdue Online Writing Lab.* Purdue U. 10 Oct. 2014. Web. 5 May 2016.

Five Criteria for Evaluating Web Pages

The essential question: **WHAT IS THIS SITE TRYING TO DO? Educate, Persuade, Sell, or Disclose**

Evaluation of Web Documents	How to Interpret the Basics
1. Authority of Web Documents • Who published the document and is the ***person*** or ***organization*** an ***expert***? • Check the ***domain*** of the document, what institution publishes this document? • Does the publisher list his or her ***qualifications***?	**Authority** • What ***credentials*** are listed for the authors? • Where is the document published? ***Check URL's domain*** (.edu, org., .gov, etc.) **Strategy for evaluating credentials** • ***Google the author's name***, • Check the ***reputation*** of the organization responsible for the site. • Is it "peer" reviewed: what do other experts say?
2. Objectivity of Web Documents • What goals/objectives does this page meet? Is it trying to ***educate, persuade, sell*** or ***disclose***? • What ***opinions*** (if any) are expressed by the author? • Is the page ***biased***? Does the page present both sides of an issue?	**Objectivity** • Determine if page is a ***mask*** for advertising; if so information might be biased. • Ask yourself ***why*** was this web page written and for whom? **Strategy for determining objectivity** • Look for a link called ***"About Us"*** or ***"Mission Statement"*** to see if the site reveals its point of view.
3. Currency of Web Documents • ***When*** was it ***produced***? • When was it updated? • How up-to-date are the links (if any)?	**Currency** • How many ***dead links*** are on the page? • Are the ***links current*** or updated regularly? • Is the information on the page outdated? **Strategy for discovering the currency** • Look for dates with in the text of the document
4. Accuracy of Web Documents • Who wrote the page and ***can you contact*** him or her? • What is the ***purpose*** of the document and why was it produced? • Is this person ***qualified*** to write this document?	**Accuracy** • Make sure author provides ***e-mail*** or a ***contact address/phone number*** to ask about the information on the site. • Is there a "Works Cited" or "sources" section? **Strategy for verifying information accuracy** • Check facts in a ***print resource***. • Check to see if ***other sites support the information*** found on the site.
5. Coverage of the Web Documents • Are the links (if any) ***evaluated*** and do they complement the documents' theme? • Is it all images or a ***balance*** of text and images? • Is the information presented ***cited*** correctly?	**Coverage** • Does the site contain ***all*** the information you need? • Does it cover ***both sides*** of an issue? • Is it ***free*** or is there a ***fee***, to obtain the information? • Is there an option for text only, or frames, or a suggested browser for better viewing?

Putting it all together
• **Authority.** If your page lists the author's credentials and its domain is preferred (.edu, .gov, .org, or .net), and,
• **Objectivity.** If your page provides accurate information with limited advertising and it is objective in presenting the information, and . . .
• **Currency.** If your page is current, updated regularly (as stated on the page) and if any links are up-to-date, and . . .
• **Accuracy.** If your page lists the author and/or institution that published the page and provides a way of contacting him/her and . . .
• **Coverage.** If you can view the information properly--not limited to fees, browser technology, or software requirement, ***then*** . . . **You may have a Web page that could be of value to your research!**

(page intentionally blank)

Name: _____

First, choose a topic that interests you and is school appropriate. The topic should have some interesting questions connected to it that would help you learn something new or make a decision about a choice you would like to make.

The type of searches that <u>would not</u> be appropriate for this assignment would be those that have a single, obvious answer. For example: *When is the next* World of Warcraft *coming out?* <u>Or</u> *How much does the new Nike running sneaker cost and where can I get it cheapest?* <u>Or</u> *When was the American Civil War fought*?

A search that <u>would</u> be appropriate for this assignment would raise interesting insights, comparisons, or questions. For example: *Which version of World of Warcraft has received the best reviews and why?* <u>Or</u> *Is there any real difference between the style of running shoe I currently have and the new model that will be out in the fall?* <u>Or</u> *Was France truly a neutral party during the American Civil War?*

Step One: Choose a topic that interests you and explain why you think it is a good focus for this assignment.

Topic: _____

This is a good focus, because....

Step Two: Write down the some questions you have about this topic.

Step Three: Based on your focus and your questions, create the search terms you will use to find information on your topic on the Web.

Step Four: Use the sheets that follow to record the websites you review and information you find.

Website 1

URL:_____

MLA Citation:

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    _____

    _____

    _____

AUTHORITY	YES	NO
1. Is it clear who is responsible for the contents of this page?		
2. Is there a link to a page describing the purpose of the sponsoring organization?		
3. Is there a way of verifying the legitimacy of the page's sponsor? (Phone number or postal address to contact for more information?		
4. Are the author's qualifications for writing on this topic clearly stated?		
5. If the material is protected by copyright, is the name of the copyright holder given?		

OBJECTIVITY	YES	NO
1. Is the purpose of the document clearly stated? (To inform; to persuade; to sell)		
2. Does the document reflect a particular bias in viewpoint?		
3. Does the author distinguish fact from opinions?		
4. Are sources or viewpoints that you might expect to be present clearly expressed?		
5. If there is advertising on the page, is it clearly differentiated from the information content?		

CURRENCY	YES	NO
1. Are there dates on the page to indicate when the page was written?		
2. Are there dates on the page to indicate when the page was last updated?		
3. Are there any other indications that the material is kept current?		
4. If material is presented in graphs or charts, is it clearly stated when the data was gathered?		

ACCURACY	YES	NO
1. Are the sources for any factual information clearly listed so they can be verified in another source?		
2. Is the information free of grammatical, spelling and other typographical errors?		
3. If there are charts and/or graphs containing statistical data, are they clearly labeled and easy to read?		

COVERAGE	YES	NO
1. Is there an indication that the page has been completed, and is not still under construction?		
2. If there is a print equivalent to the Web page, is there a clear indication of whether the entire work is available on the Web, or only parts of it?		
3. If the material is from a work which is out of copyright (as in the case of a dictionary or thesaurus) has there been an effort to update the material to make it more current?		

After answering these questions, consider: Do you believe this website provides accurate and valid information about your topic? Why or why not?

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If you have determined that this website is valid and reliable, write down one fact you would use for your topic.

If you have determined that this website is not trustworthy, write down one fact you have doubts about.

Website 2

URL:_____

MLA Citation:

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AUTHORITY	YES	NO
1. Is it clear who is responsible for the contents of this page?		
2. Is there a link to a page describing the purpose of the sponsoring organization?		
3. Is there a way of verifying the legitimacy of the page's sponsor? (Phone number or postal address to contact for more information?)		
4. Are the author's qualifications for writing on this topic clearly stated?		
5. If the material is protected by copyright, is the name of the copyright holder given?		

OBJECTIVITY	YES	NO
1. Is the purpose of the document clearly stated? (To inform; to persuade; to sell)		
2. Does the document reflect a particular bias in viewpoint?		
3. Does the author distinguish fact from opinions?		
4. Are sources or viewpoints that you might expect to be present clearly expressed?		
5. If there is advertising on the page, is it clearly differentiated from the information content?		

CURRENCY	YES	NO
1. Are there dates on the page to indicate when the page was written?		
2. Are there dates on the page to indicate when the page was last updated?		
3. Are there any other indications that the material is kept current?		
4. If material is presented in graphs or charts, is it clearly stated when the data was gathered?		

ACCURACY	YES	NO
1. Are the sources for any factual information clearly listed so they can be verified in another source?		
2. Is the information free of grammatical, spelling and other typographical errors?		
3. If there are charts and/or graphs containing statistical data, are they clearly labeled and easy to read?		

COVERAGE	YES	NO
1. Is there an indication that the page has been completed, and is not still under construction?		
2. If there is a print equivalent to the Web page, is there a clear indication of whether the entire work is available on the Web, or only parts of it?		
3. If the material is from a work which is out of copyright (as in the case of a dictionary or thesaurus) has there been an effort to update the material to make it more current?		

After answering these questions, consider: Do you believe this website provides accurate and valid information about your topic? Why or why not?

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If you have determined that this website is valid and reliable, write down one fact you would use for your topic.

If you have determined that this website is not trustworthy, write down one fact you have doubts about.

Website 3

URL:_____

MLA Citation:

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AUTHORITY	YES	NO
1. Is it clear who is responsible for the contents of this page?		
2. Is there a link to a page describing the purpose of the sponsoring organization?		
3. Is there a way of verifying the legitimacy of the page's sponsor? (Phone number or postal address to contact for more information?)		
4. Are the author's qualifications for writing on this topic clearly stated?		
5. If the material is protected by copyright, is the name of the copyright holder given?		

OBJECTIVITY	YES	NO
1. Is the purpose of the document clearly stated? (To inform; to persuade; to sell)		
2. Does the document reflect a particular bias in viewpoint?		
3. Does the author distinguish fact from opinions?		
4. Are sources or viewpoints that you might expect to be present clearly expressed?		
5. If there is advertising on the page, is it clearly differentiated from the information content?		

CURRENCY	YES	NO
1. Are there dates on the page to indicate when the page was written?		
2. Are there dates on the page to indicate when the page was last updated?		
3. Are there any other indications that the material is kept current?		
4. If material is presented in graphs or charts, is it clearly stated when the data was gathered?		

ACCURACY	YES	NO
1. Are the sources for any factual information clearly listed so they can be verified in another source?		
2. Is the information free of grammatical, spelling and other typographical errors?		
3. If there are charts and/or graphs containing statistical data, are they clearly labeled and easy to read?		

COVERAGE	YES	NO
1. Is there an indication that the page has been completed, and is not still under construction?		
2. If there is a print equivalent to the Web page, is there a clear indication of whether the entire work is available on the Web, or only parts of it?		
3. If the material is from a work which is out of copyright (as in the case of a dictionary or thesaurus) has there been an effort to update the material to make it more current?		

After answering these questions, consider: Do you believe this website provides accurate and valid information about your topic? Why or why not?

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If you have determined that this website is valid and reliable, write down one fact you would use for your topic.

If you have determined that this website is not trustworthy, write down one fact you have doubts about.

Website 4

URL:_____

MLA Citation:

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AUTHORITY	YES	NO
1. Is it clear who is responsible for the contents of this page?		
2. Is there a link to a page describing the purpose of the sponsoring organization?		
3. Is there a way of verifying the legitimacy of the page's sponsor? (Phone number or postal address to contact for more information?)		
4. Are the author's qualifications for writing on this topic clearly stated?		
5. If the material is protected by copyright, is the name of the copyright holder given?		

OBJECTIVITY	YES	NO
1. Is the purpose of the document clearly stated? (To inform; to persuade; to sell)		
2. Does the document reflect a particular bias in viewpoint?		
3. Does the author distinguish fact from opinions?		
4. Are sources or viewpoints that you might expect to be present clearly expressed?		
5. If there is advertising on the page, is it clearly differentiated from the information content?		

CURRENCY	YES	NO
1. Are there dates on the page to indicate when the page was written?		
2. Are there dates on the page to indicate when the page was last updated?		
3. Are there any other indications that the material is kept current?		
4. If material is presented in graphs or charts, is it clearly stated when the data was gathered?		

ACCURACY	YES	NO
1. Are the sources for any factual information clearly listed so they can be verified in another source?		
2. Is the information free of grammatical, spelling and other typographical errors?		
3. If there are charts and/or graphs containing statistical data, are they clearly labeled and easy to read?		

COVERAGE	YES	NO
1. Is there an indication that the page has been completed, and is not still under construction?		
2. If there is a print equivalent to the Web page, is there a clear indication of whether the entire work is available on the Web, or only parts of it?		
3. If the material is from a work which is out of copyright (as in the case of a dictionary or thesaurus) has there been an effort to update the material to make it more current?		

After answering these questions, consider: Do you believe this website provides accurate and valid information about your topic? Why or why not?

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If you have determined that this website is valid and reliable, write down one fact you would use for your topic.

If you have determined that this website is not trustworthy, write down one fact you have doubts about.

Website 5

URL:_____

MLA Citation:

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AUTHORITY	YES	NO
1. Is it clear who is responsible for the contents of this page?		
2. Is there a link to a page describing the purpose of the sponsoring organization?		
3. Is there a way of verifying the legitimacy of the page's sponsor? (Phone number or postal address to contact for more information?)		
4. Are the author's qualifications for writing on this topic clearly stated?		
5. If the material is protected by copyright, is the name of the copyright holder given?		

OBJECTIVITY	YES	NO
1. Is the purpose of the document clearly stated? (To inform; to persuade; to sell)		
2. Does the document reflect a particular bias in viewpoint?		
3. Does the author distinguish fact from opinions?		
4. Are sources or viewpoints that you might expect to be present clearly expressed?		
5. If there is advertising on the page, is it clearly differentiated from the information content?		

CURRENCY	YES	NO
1. Are there dates on the page to indicate when the page was written?		
2. Are there dates on the page to indicate when the page was last updated?		
3. Are there any other indications that the material is kept current?		
4. If material is presented in graphs or charts, is it clearly stated when the data was gathered?		

ACCURACY	YES	NO
1. Are the sources for any factual information clearly listed so they can be verified in another source?		
2. Is the information free of grammatical, spelling and other typographical errors?		
3. If there are charts and/or graphs containing statistical data, are they clearly labeled and easy to read?		

COVERAGE	YES	NO
1. Is there an indication that the page has been completed, and is not still under construction?		
2. If there is a print equivalent to the Web page, is there a clear indication of whether the entire work is available on the Web, or only parts of it?		
3. If the material is from a work which is out of copyright (as in the case of a dictionary or thesaurus) has there been an effort to update the material to make it more current?		

After answering these questions, consider: Do you believe this Website provides accurate and valid information about your topic? Why or why not?

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If you have determined that this website is valid and reliable, write down one fact you would use for your topic.

If you have determined that this website is not trustworthy, write down one fact you have doubts about.

Conclusions

After you have finished accessing and evaluating your five websites, answer the following questions in preparation for your discussion with your advisory group:

1. Rank your websites from most useful to least useful:

      Most Useful _____

                     _____

                     _____

                     _____

      Least Useful _____

Why did you choose this order?

2. If you did the search again, what would you change in your approach to make your results more useful?

3. What advice or insights do you have to share with others from what you learned while doing this Web search?

4. How will you present this information to your advisory group? What are the most important details you can include in your discussion with them?

5. What questions do you think your advisory group or teacher will have for you?