

UNIT 7

I-Search Outline

Chosen Theme: _____

Primary Text: _____

Film(s): _____

I. My Theme:

This section gives you a chance to describe your interest in the theme you chose to pursue in the I-search and to develop your reader's interest in the theme as well.

Possible prompts: Why were you attracted to a particular theme (out of the four thematic categories presented: "Slaying the Dragon," "Transformations and Journeys," "Morality and Tough Choices," or "Nonconformity")? What previous knowledge or interest did you have regarding this theme? What made you curious about the theme? Did you have personal reasons for choosing the theme?

II. My Reading/Viewing:

This section is dedicated to your interest and interpretations of the primary text and film(s) you chose. You may take your reader on "a journey of your thoughts," beginning with your decision-making process as you chose the specific book and film(s) and ending with your analysis of the I-search question: How does the author and/or filmmaker communicate a message about the theme you chose?

III. My Search:

This section will be a description of the research process you pursued in order to investigate how "experts in the field" have made connections between your chosen theme and the book and film(s) you examined. This section should include excerpts from both your interview narrative and your descriptions of how print or Internet sources shed further light on your theme and/or the historical context of your book and film(s).

Possible prompts: What research sources did you initially find? Did these sources lead you to other sources? Did you have any research setbacks? If so, how did you overcome them? Were there any people who were especially helpful to you during your search? What part of the research process was the most interesting? The most exciting? The most boring? The most confusing? The most enlightening?

IV. My Findings:

This section will contain two or three of your most important conclusions about your theme and related works. These conclusions should be supported with quotations and examples from your research sources and personal interpretations to illustrate to your reader how you arrived at your final conclusions.

Possible prompts: What did you learn about your theme and/or works? How can you show or prove what you learned? How did you arrive at these conclusions?

V. Myself as a Researcher:

This section should report on what you have learned about the nature of research and about the task of reporting your findings through writing.

Possible prompts: How have you grown as a researcher through this I-search project? In the future, how will you research a topic differently based on what you learned from this research experience? What research tips could you now share with a less experienced researcher?

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