

GUIDELINES FOR THINKQUEST WEBSITE FINAL PROJECT

Follow the steps below to complete your final project, DUE AT THE END OF THE PERIOD IN LESSON 40. Each group is responsible for creating research-based educational website for the ThinkQuest Program. The overall subject for the class websites is **Regional American English**; however, each group's website should be titled according to their particular area of research. Each group's website should indicate the overall class theme, and mention how their website ties into that theme. Make sure you get your teacher's initials where they are called for or you will not receive credit for that portion of the website.

DESIGN AND NAVIGATION – Each Website must include the following Design and Navigation Elements:

- Color Scheme – choose different colors for your background, your writing, and your links. Remember to maintain consistency (make all links the same color, for example), so that your site is easy to navigate.
- White Space (blank areas on the page) used effectively
- At least one example each of bold and italic text, used consistently throughout the site
- Different font sizes (size of font for link should match the size of the font for the piece being linked to)
- Different font styles (titles for links should match the font for the piece being linked to)
- At least five images (one for each Research Page, and for the home page)
- A recurring graphic element that appears on all pages (a button or design, for example)
- Other unifying elements discussed by your group and listed on your Brainstorm sheet (e.g. illustrations of a matching style or borders around certain areas).
- Links to all other pages on the website (links should be placed in the same location on each page, whenever possible).

TEXT – The content of each page should include the following text:

- Page Title (The subtopic of your research project)
- Subheadings or Subtitles (where applicable)
- Menu with links to all other sections of your site (menu should be placed in the same location on all pages)
- Writing – Each group member places information from their individual Research Essay, created according to the **Research Essay Guidelines**. The group should work together to decide the most appropriate information to include from each group member's essay. It should be on a Subtopic page, with a link back to the subtitle on the home page.

PAGE COMPONENTS – Each Website must include the following components:

I. HOME PAGE – Must contain the following:

- An explanation of how their website ties in to the theme of Regional American English.
- An Introduction to the content Titles for each of the Subtopic Research Pages, with hooks underneath
- Menu with titles for all other sections of your site
- Hooks: Pieces of the text for each Subtopic Page and 4 links to the actual text of the subtitled pieces from each of your group members.
- Links to all of the following sections of your site (links should be placed in the same location on all pages)

Home page
About Us page
Citations page
All Subtopic pages

II. SUBTOPIC PAGES – A minimum of 4 separate Subtopic Pages that contain the research for the subtopics of the main topic of research.

III. ABOUT US PAGE – This should include one of the Reflective Essays created in class, and information about the authors of the site, which may be drawn from the My Folk Groups assignment. It should also contain links to all other pages of the site, as well as all other required design and navigation elements.

- IV. CITATIONS PAGE – This should include citations for all quotations, borrowed images, sampled audio, or significant ideas referenced in the website. All sources should be cited using the form shown on the **Style Sheet**.
- V. FLASH MOVIES – At least four Flash Movies (one per group member) – created according to the **Flash Movie Guidelines**. They should be placed wherever it is most logical (e.g., as they contain links, they may be placed on the Citations page. Or you may wish to place them on a Subtopic page, if the link refers to a specific issue mentioned therein).

Your Website MUST be handed in with the following items:

- **Research Goals**
- **Website Brainstorm**
- **Guidelines for ThinkQuest Websites** sheet with teacher's initials
- Mock Layout of Home Page on group-created graphic organizer
- A 1st draft of your Subtopic page, printed out
- Suggestions for revisions for Subtopic Pages on a **Critique Sheet**
- A 2nd draft of your Subtopic Page, printed out
- 1 edit for spelling, punctuation and grammar
- A final draft of your Subtopic Page, printed out

Each editor will also receive credit for fulfilling their group role by turning in the following items:

- A 1st draft of your page, printed out
- Suggestions for revisions on a Critique sheet
- A second draft of your page, printed out
- 1 edit for spelling, punctuation and grammar
- A final draft of your page, printed out

(Subtopic editors will receive credit for this portion from the **Critique Sheets** being turned in by other group members, which will demonstrate how they fulfilled their group role)

You will lose points for each missing piece. Any website page turned in without a 1st draft will be considered the 1st draft, regardless of when it was turned in. (Thus, if you turn in your first draft on the final due date, it will be considered a very late first draft, and you will still be missing a final draft.) All portions of this assignment will be marked off one point for late work; that means you are missing your teacher's initials.

STEP 1: TOPICS AND SOURCES – Choose a preliminary topic and compile sources. Determine your message and target audience. After initial research, narrow the topic and write a rough draft of a thesis statement. Based on the modified topic, compile further sources, including a variety of media and at least one primary source. Gather data and keep records on notecards and source cards. Your final research will draw from at least ten notecards, after the group has assisted in discarding the irrelevant ones. After you have selected the final ten notecards, get your teacher's initials, below. Using the headings from the notecards, create a rough outline.

_____ teacher initials

STEP 2: RESEARCH AND BRAINSTORM – Complete your **Research Goals** and **Website Brainstorm**. Decide upon the unifying elements for your website (including page colors, text colors, fonts for the link titles which match the fonts of the pages linked to, placement of images or borders around images, and a recurring graphic element, such as a button or a design, that occurs on all pages). Make sure these elements are noted on your **Website Brainstorm** sheet. Once this step is complete, get your teacher's initials below.

_____ teacher initials

STEP 3: CREATE AN OUTLINE – Working as a group, and using the notecards, create an outline for the research topic. Each project outline must have four or more subtopics. When you have completed your outline, get your teacher's initials in the space below.

STEP 4: ASSIGN GROUP ROLES – see below. Each group member must take responsibility for at least one group role, in addition to creating their own subtopic page.

Home Page Editor – You are in charge of designing the home page for the website, which houses the explanation of the class theme and contains links to all of the other pages. It is your job to oversee your team and make sure that

they are completing their website pages on time, so that you may write the hooks to the Subtopic pages. You are also in charge of facilitating group meetings and goal-setting sessions. It is not your job to come up with all of the content or all of the design elements for the website. You must help your group make these decisions. You are also responsible for completing all of the remaining steps of this project, listed in these guidelines.

Subtopic Editor – You are responsible for checking for continuity among the subtopic pages on the website, and critiquing them, using the **Critique Sheet** as a guide. It is your job to do the final edits for everyone’s Subtopic Page. You must also make sure that everyone gets you their information on time, so that you may make changes. You are also responsible for completing all of the remaining steps of this project, listed in these guidelines.

About Us Editor – You are responsible for creating the About Us page of the website, to house all information about the authors of the site. You must make sure that everyone gives you their information on time, so that you may do your work. You are also responsible for completing all of the remaining steps of this project, listed in these guidelines.

Citations Editor – You are responsible for creating the citations page of the website, to house all member’s reflective essays information about sources referenced during the project. It is your job to do the final edits for this page. You must also make sure that everyone gets you their information on time, so that you may do your work. You will also to gather everyone’s source cards to create the final citations page for the project, based on the **Style Sheet**. You are also responsible for completing all of the remaining steps of this project, listed in these guidelines.

_____ teacher initials

STEP 5: CREATE LAYOUT OF WEBSITE – Work as a group to create a graphic organizer to plan your site, and to fill out this organizer with the appropriate information. When your group has created this layout, have your teacher initial below:

_____ teacher initials

STEP 6: CREATE SUBTOPIC WEB PAGES – Use Dreamweaver to create these pages. Each group member should create at least one page for their subtopic.

When you have finished creating your subtopic page(s), have your teacher and your Subtopic Editor initial below:

_____ teacher initials _____ Subtopic Editor

STEP 7: OTHER PAGES AND CRITIQUE – Create all other pages for website, using Dreamweaver (Home Page, About Us, Citations), Subtopic Editor critiques Subtopic Pages. Make sure you also keep in mind the unifying elements for your website, according to your notes from your staff meeting. (While these pages are created, Subtopic Editor will check pages for continuity.) When all pages have been created, and the Subtopic Pages have been critiqued, have your teacher initial below.

_____ teacher initials

STEP 8: Make the changes suggested to create the second draft of your subtopic web page. Then have your teacher initial below.

_____ teacher initials

STEP 9: Critique and Revise all other pages. When all pages have been revised, have your teacher initial below.

_____ teacher initials

STEP 10: EDIT ALL PAGES – Check all pages for correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar. When all pages have been edited, have your teacher initial below.

_____ teacher initials

STEP 11: Review the entire website for any errors that may have occurred after you made changes. Polish this final draft of your website, if necessary.

Show your teacher this edited version with all of your other versions. Get your teacher’s initials below to show that it was done on time.

_____ teacher initials

STEP 12: Save the pages of the final draft of your website to a cd. Print off all final drafts of pages. Staple everything together in the following order:

- **Guidelines for ThinkQuest Websites** sheet with teacher's initials
- **Research Goals**
- **Website Brainstorm**
- Mock Layout of Home Page on group-created graphic organizer
- A 1st draft of your Subtopic page, printed out
- Suggestions for revisions for Subtopic Pages on a **Critique Sheet**
- A 2nd draft of your Subtopic Page, printed out
- 1 edit for spelling, punctuation and grammar
- The final draft of your Subtopic Page, printed out

For group role credit:

- A 1st draft of your page (other than Subtopic page), printed out
- Suggestions for revisions on a **Critique Sheet**
- A second draft of your page, printed out
- 1 edit for spelling, punctuation and grammar
- A final draft of your page, printed out

Have your teacher initial below to show that she received this final product on time.

_____ teacher initials

STEP 13: UPLOAD WEBSITE: (to the ThinkQuest Server) Keep a copy on disk in your portfolio.

_____ teacher initials

GRADING PROCEDURE:

YOUR GRADE:

Research Goals, Website Brainstorm, and website layout	6 points	_____
First Draft of Subtopic Page	6 points	_____
Critique Sheet (done by Subtopic Editor for your page)	4 points	_____
Second Draft of Subtopic Page W/ your changes	6 points	_____
Final Draft of Subtopic Page, including changes, and proofread	6 points	_____
Score for fulfilling Group Role	6 points	_____
Rubric Grade (from teacher)	6 points	_____
Rubric Grade (from student panel)	6 points	_____
Page Uploaded Successfully	4 points	_____

TOTAL POSSIBLE	<u>50</u>	YOUR TOTAL _____
----------------	-----------	------------------

To figure out your grade, divide your total points by the total points possible. This will give you a percentage. See table below for grade percentages.

A- to A+	90% - 100%
B- to B+	80% - 89%
C- to C+	70% - 79%
D- to D+	58% - 69%
F	57% and below