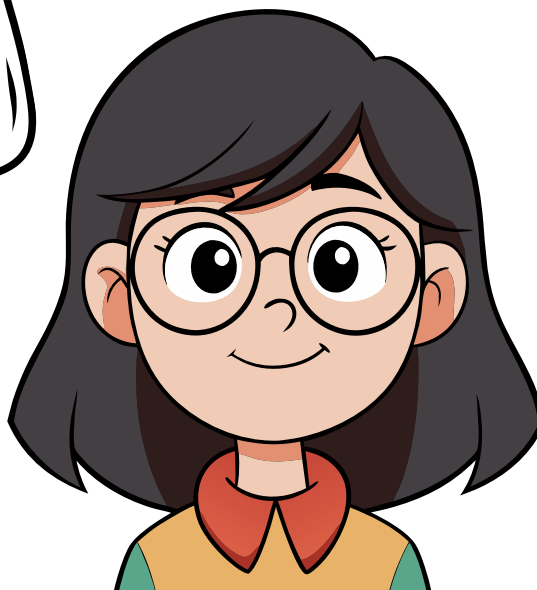


Self-Directed Term Project: Topic Brainstorm

<u>Animals</u>	<u>Places/Cultures</u>	<u>Science/Nature</u>
<u>Inventions/How things Work</u>	<u>History/Famous People</u>	<u>Other Ideas</u>

The topic I choose is: _____

Think about what you LOVE, what you're CURIOUS about, or what you've always WANTED TO TRY. Fill in as many ideas as you can!



What I Already Know About My Topic

1

2

3

4

5

What I Want To Learn About My Topic

1

2

3

4

5

Research Log

date	source	what I learned

Project Planner

My Topic

I want to learn about: _____

I will find information by:

- ☐ Reading books
- ☐ Watching videos
- ☐ Asking questions/interviewing someone
- ☐ Doing experiments
- ☐ Visiting a place
- ☐ Other: _____

I want to create:

- ☐ A poster
- ☐ A slideshow
- ☐ A model or diorama
- ☐ A booklet or mini magazine
- ☐ A video
- ☐ A demonstration or performance
- ☐ A comic or story
- ☐ Other: _____

Supplies I might need:

Topic Idea Examples

Endangered animals. Life cycle of a butterfly. Pet care guide (dogs, guinea pigs, reptiles, etc.). How bees make honey. Deep sea creatures. Animal camouflage. Weird animal adaptations. Horses through history. NASA. Rainforest ecosystems. Volcanoes and how they erupt. How electricity works. How airplanes fly. The solar system. Build your own robot. Famous scientists (Marie Curie, Albert Einstein). Simple machines (levers, pulleys, gears). The water cycle. Weather patterns and clouds. Crystals and how they grow. Ancient Egypt. The Titanic. American pioneers. Native American cultures. History of castles and knights. Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. Life as a child in the 1800s. History of chocolate.

How to draw cartoons. History of animation. Famous artists (Van Gogh, Georgia O'Keeffe, Yayoi Kusama). Photography basics. Fashion through the decades. DIY comic book. How to make a stop-motion video. International foods: What kids eat in other countries. The history of pizza. Grow your own herb garden and cook with it. How chocolate is made. Create your own cookbook.

Write and illustrate your own picture book. Create a fairy tale retelling. Explore poetry and write your own poems. Start a book club. . History of ballet or tap. Learn to play a new instrument. Make your own puppet show. How sound works and make your own instruments.

Learn basic coding (Scratch or Tynker). How video games are made. Build a mini website about your favorite topic. Create a simple board game. Design your dream bedroom or playhouse. LEGO architecture or engineering.

Family history / Create a family tree. Dream vacation planning. Start a small business (like pet-sitting or handmade cards). Create your own holiday or festival. Design a theme park. Learn magic tricks and put on a show. How to take care of a plant and track its growth.

Requirements

Your presentation should include:

- ✓ A clear introduction: Tell us your name and your topic.
- ✓ Your best effort
- ✓ 3–5 interesting facts or things you learned.
- ✓ A visual aid: poster, model, slideshow, drawing, booklet, or video.
- ✓ Speak clearly and confidently (you can use note cards).
- ✓ End with a reflection: What did you enjoy most? Would you recommend this topic to a friend?

Optional (but awesome!):

- ★ A demonstration (like showing how something works)
- ★ Costumes or props
- ★ A handout or mini quiz for your audience

Category	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Needs Work (2)	Not Yet (1)
Effort	Project shows outstanding effort and care	Project shows good effort	Some effort, but rushed	Minimal effort shown
Research & Content	Learned facts are accurate, interesting, and clearly explained	Mostly clear and accurate	Some facts unclear or missing	Few facts or unclear information
Creativity	Project is creative, unique, and thoughtfully designed	Some creative touches	A little creative effort	Lacks creativity
Visual Aid	Neat, colorful, and supports the presentation well	Clear but could be more detailed	Messy or hard to read	Missing or not helpful
Presentation Skills	Spoke clearly, made eye contact, and explained confidently	Mostly clear, some reading	Hard to hear or follow	Did not present or mumbled