

INVENTING AMERICA



SCENARIO: The Knight High School History Department is putting together an Inventors' Expo in which American inventors will be honored. Your job is to create a piece which honors one inventor. Your entry will consist of both images of the inventor and one of his/her famous inventions, the research you conduct on that person and invention, and a visual representation of the information (poster board and 3-D model). The purpose of this project is for you to develop an understanding of the American tradition of innovation and the progression of technology as it correlates with the founding of our country leading up through the Industrial Revolution. It is also meant to help you practice your research skills.

Step 1: CHOOSE YOUR INVENTION:

- 1) Choose an **American** inventor and one of their inventions about which you would like to learn.
- 2) The invention must have been **created** somewhere within the time span of **1750-1920**.
- 3) The invention you choose must also be **SCHOOL APPROPRIATE**. Items like birth control aids and weapons of any sort will **NOT** be approved.
- 4) **YOU MUST CLEAR THE SPECIFIC INVENTOR AND INVENTION WITH ME BEFORE YOU BEGIN WORKING ON YOUR PROJECT! Projects submitted on topics which have not been pre-approved will NOT be accepted.** You must clear your choice with me by **FRIDAY, NOV 3rd**. **Students who ask to have their inventions approved after the deadline will be docked 10% off their project grade for EACH day they are late.**
- 5) No one in the class will be allowed to do their project on the same invention.

Step 2: RESEARCH

- 1) Research your inventor/invention and produce **3 credible sources minimum** from which you will gather information for the final product. Feel free to consult the "research" page of the class website to help you with this. **You must complete and submit your notes via Google Classroom (due Friday, November 17th).**
 - a) Source # 1 must be a **book**. Electronic books (ex: Google Books) are acceptable.
 - b) Sources #2 and #3 may be internet related; however, the **ONLY ACCEPTABLE INTERNET SOURCES WILL BE:**
 - i. College/School Research Sites
 - ii. Online Encyclopedias (**NOT** Wikipedia!)
 - iii. Articles from reliable sources
 - iv. Corporate websites that sponsor or own the invention being researched
 - v. Credible web sources
 - c) **These 3 sources are due on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17th in an MLA formatted bibliography submitted via Google Classroom.** (See me if you need help with this. Bring your sources when you see me for help. You may also consult the MLA page of the class website.)
- 2) The following are the **REQUIRED pieces of information** you must look for:
 - a) **About the inventor:**
 - i. **First and last name** of the inventor with a **picture** of him/her (as many as possible)
 - ii. Inventor's **education** (school, apprenticeship, job practice, self-taught)
 - b) **About the invention:**
 - i. **Name of the invention**
 - ii. **Year** it was invented
 - iii. **A picture** of the invention (include as many as possible)

c) **Answers to the following questions:**

- i. * What was the process involved in developing the invention? What was the inspiration for this invention? Did earlier inventions lead to this invention? What obstacles did the inventor encounter in the process? How long did it take to complete?
- ii. What does the invention do (its purpose)? How does it work?
- iii. * How did life change after the invention was created? What was it like before?
- iv. Who did this invention benefit the most? How did it benefit them?
- v. Did this invention lead to other inventions? If so, which ones?
- vi. Do we still use this invention? If so, why? If not, why not?
- vii. * How has this invention changed our lives socially, economically, and culturally? (*This is the most important question of your research project!*)

*****Responses to questions with an asterisk (*) next to them should be no shorter than a full paragraph (5-7 sentences)*****

Step 3: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

1) **Option 1: Poster board only (minimum requirement)**

a) Take all pictures and pieces of information and place them on the **FRONT** of a posterboard. You are expected to present your requirements in a neat, aesthetically pleasing manner. You are welcome to include additional information/pictures beyond the minimum requirements listed above about the inventor and/or the invention.

2) **Option 2: Poster board + 3-D Model (extra credit)**

a) Students who wish to earn **extra credit** may build/create a **3-D model of the invention**. Please note that the 3-D model of your invention by itself will NOT take the place of the original assignment. In other words, don't focus on the extra credit until you've completed the actual assignment. So, if you produce a beautiful 3-D model, but fail to meet the minimum research requirements, you will earn a failing grade. Store-bought items such as ready-made models of the invention will not earn extra credit. If you want extra credit, you must create the 3-D visual yourself! (Please do NOT use edible products or glitter when creating your 3-D model.)

FINAL PRODUCT DUE DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29th

TOTAL POINTS: 500 POINTS

GRADING RUBRIC

Grade→ Criteria ↓	A Outstanding	B Commendable	C Acceptable	F Unacceptable
Bibliography	* Uses a wide variety of reliable sources * Uses more than 3 sources * 0-2 mistakes on bibliography	* Uses at least 3 different types of sources * 3-5 mistakes on bibliography	* Uses 3 sources, at least two different kinds * 6-7 mistakes on bibliography	* Uses fewer than 3 sources, all same type * more than 7 mistakes on bibliography
Accuracy of Research	* Extremely accurate * No plagiarized work * All minimum requirements met	* Very accurate (1-2 mistakes) * No plagiarized work * All minimum requirements met	* Somewhat accurate (3-4 mistakes) * No plagiarized work * At least 1 minimum requirement missing	* More than 4 mistakes * Some or all work plagiarized * More than 1 minimum requirement missing
Poster/Visual	Outstandingly creative work / All required information present along with many extra pieces of information	Extremely creative work / All required information present along with some extra pieces of information	Very creative work / All required information present with no extra information	No signs of creativity / Not all required information present