

QUEST Independent Research Standards

Standards are adapted from Common Core and High School Mentorship Curriculum

The Nature of Research:

Standard 1: The student will identify and evaluate scholarly research

- Define authentic scholarly research
- Describe how research contributes to a body of knowledge
- Explore the characteristics, language, and purpose of various research methods
- Compare the primary research methodologies available for designing a research study

The Knowledge Base:

Standard 1: The student will build a knowledge base by gathering relevant information from multiple print, digital, and human sources assessing the usefulness of each source in answering a research question

- Identify, locate, evaluate, and select sources in a wide variety of formats
- Network with professionals, teachers, and peers
- Build a foundation of knowledge through extensive reading, determining central ideas or themes of a text and analyzing their development
- Interview content area experts for research possibilities, controversial topics, and issues in the field of interest
- Summarize and organize key ideas and supporting details relevant to the knowledge base

Standard 2: The student will choose subjects worthy of scholarly research

- Identify a subject for authentic scholarly research
- Develop a personal viewpoint
- Demonstrate independence in decision-making, goal setting, and deadlines
- Propose an original research question
- Draft a preliminary hypothesis

Standard 3: The student will present the knowledge base in both oral and written formats

- Summarize and critique collected research, producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience
- Create an annotated source list or bibliography
- Present findings orally, organizing the information clearly and logically with attention to the needs of the audience and purpose
- Assemble an authentic audience of stakeholders in the field of interest
- Refine the behaviors of an effective speaker as appropriate to the audience and purpose

Standard 4: The student will compile a polished, professional electronic research portfolio

- Understand the significance of creating a positive digital footprint
- Select, revise, and update items for a portfolio, which represent acquired knowledge and skills
- Use metacognitive skills to reflect on continuing research
- Share the portfolio and revise components based upon the feedback from multiple audiences

Standard 5: The student will write arguments to support an original thesis, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence based upon accumulated knowledge (Research Experience Only- optional)

- Develop a well-constructed thesis that states a position based upon the review of literature
- Choose, apply, and maintain an organizational structure appropriate to the writing purpose
- Evaluate information as it relates to the original thesis to determine sufficiency and relevancy
- Synthesize the evaluated knowledge into a coherent discussion of the original thesis, addressing claims and counterclaims
- Write a synthesis paper that analyzes and evaluates the current research relevant to the original thesis.

Scholarly Research

Standard 1: The student will select appropriate research methodologies and construct an authentic, scholarly, research proposal.

- Examine bibliographies for patterns, trends, and personal interests
- Determine the appropriate research methodology and data collection method for original research
- Use the Creative Problem Solving process while developing a research proposal

Standard 2: The student will create new knowledge

- Finalize the original research proposal
- Conduct research
- Follow protocols of data collection and communication with researchers
- Collect, analyze, and interpret data using appropriate tools and methods
- Articulate results and recommend solutions

Research Synthesis and Presentation

Standard 1: The student will synthesize the results of original, scholarly research, developing an authentic product for an authentic audience

- Write an abstract that explains the major elements of the research study
- Evaluate the research and product with a content expert
- Edit and finalize the product for delivery
- Present the research and product, and collect feedback/evaluations

Standard 2: The student will present the results of scholarly research to an established audience

- Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective
- Refine behaviors of an effective speaker as appropriate to the task, audience, and purpose
- Apply non-verbal communication to contribute to meaning and enhance a presentation
- Make strategic use of digital media in presentations to enhance understanding of findings and evidence and to add interest
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English and usage when speaking

The Successful Metnor Experience (Mentorship Experience Only)

Standard 1: The student will meet workplace expectations

- Demonstrate punctuality and consistent attendance
- Communicate responsibly in the workplace
- Demonstrate perseverance in completing a long-term task and soiving any challenges that arise
- Summarize legislation regarding harassment and liability
- Recognize the importance of:
 - A dress code
 - Confidentiality
 - Professional behavior

Standard 2: The student will show initiative

- Seek experiences and resources
- Share course assignments with a mentor
- Demonstrate evidence of ongoing research
- Develop questions based on research and observations to share with a mentor