Independent study guidelines

You will be spending the last few weeks of GEMS studying a topic of your choosing. Please answer the questions below to help guide your selection and set your goals for this independent study.

What do you want to study? Make a top 5 list of things that you’ve always wanted to know more about.

5.
4.
3.
2.
1.

For each topic you’ve listed above, think of possible goals that you want to set for your study. What do you want to accomplish with your study? What will your end product be? Write your ideas for each topic in the space below:

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Now you must make a decision about what you are going to study and what your goals are going to be. Please write in your topic of study and at least 2 goals that you want to accomplish with this topic. Your goals should include some kind of end product that can be evaluated. If you want to write more goals, you may.

Topic I’m choosing to study: ____________________________________________

Goal #1: ____________________________________________________________

Goal #2: ____________________________________________________________

Now, please plan out how you are going to accomplish your goals. List all the possible tasks that you will need to complete in order to reach your goals:

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Next, please describe your end product for each goal:

End product #1:


End product #2:


In addition to completing the tasks for this project, you will also need to keep a log of your time and what you accomplished. You need to include the date, what you accomplished, and what you still need to accomplish. It could look something like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Today I accomplished:</th>
<th>I still need to do:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Your teacher will be collecting your work log when the project is due. Please don’t forget it!

Independent Study Pledge:
I have read and understand the directions in this contract. I pledge to do my very best at completing the work I have chosen. My work will be completed on time and will be the highest quality I’ve done all year!

Student signature ______________________ date ________________
Each activity that you complete from the matrix will be evaluated using the rubric on this page. You will receive points in the categories of effort, achievement, creativity, and quality of work.

Not only will the teacher be evaluating your work, you will complete a self-evaluation using the same rubric (for each activity you complete).

**Rating system:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **4 points Distinguished** | - You did excellent work and went beyond what was required of you for the task. You pushed yourself to do more.  
- Your work stands out from all of the others. Your end product is complex and highly developed. You have applied your knowledge of the subject.  
- Your work is highly creative; your ideas are original and show a high degree of imagination and elaboration.  
- Your work is of high quality. It shows thoughtful design. It is neat, free of spelling errors, and shows evidence that you took your time. |
| **3 points Accomplished** | - You did good work and accomplished what was asked for the task.  
- Your end product is somewhat complex and developed. You have applied most of your knowledge of the subject.  
- Your work shows creativity, with some evidence of originality, imagination, and/or elaboration.  
- Your work is of high quality. It is neat, free of spelling errors, and shows evidence that you took your time. |
| **2 points Developing** | - You did acceptable work and accomplished most of what was required for the task. You could have pushed yourself to do better.  
- Your end product needed to be more complex and developed. It doesn't show that you applied your knowledge of the subject well.  
- Your work may be somewhat creative, but does not show much evidence of originality, imagination, and/or elaboration.  
- Your work is of decent quality. It is somewhat neat, but may contain spelling errors. It does not show much evidence that you took your time. |
| **1 point Beginning** | - Your work shows skills of a beginner. You did not accomplish all that was asked for the task. You could have pushed yourself to do more/better.  
- Your end product is not very complex or well developed. It doesn't show that you applied your knowledge of the subject.  
- Your work lacks creativity, including evidence of originality, imagination, and/or elaboration.  
- Your work is of low quality. It is not neat and contains spelling errors. It does not show evidence that you took your time. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effort (Amount of energy put into task)</th>
<th>Achievement (The result or end product)</th>
<th>Creativity (How unique is my idea or work)</th>
<th>Quality of work (Neatness, correct spelling/grammar, evidence of taking time)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>