**Independent Research with a Topic of Your Choice**

For the next three weeks (October 27-November 13) you will be researching a topic of your choice. Your topic can be **anything** (school appropriate!) you are interested in and it should be something that you will still be interested in *after* three weeks of study. Your goal will be to saturate yourself with information about your topic. You will search newspapers (online or paper), magazines, online articles, and books for as much information as you can find.

Each week you will be responsible for finding, reading, and summarizing **five articles** about your topic. Also, each week we will narrow the focus of your research. This will result in increasingly specific information about your topic. For example, on week one you might choose to begin investigating skateboarding. This will be your topic for the week. Next week, you will need to focus your research, so you might choose to research famous skateboarders. The final week, you will focus further and might chose to research Tony Hawk, the most famous skateboarder.

**So, what am I expecting to see each week?** You will complete an Article Summary Page for each week with your five article titles (articles attached, if possible) and a summary of each article. Follow the summary guidelines attached if you need help. This information goes in your Reader’s Notebook. See the Article Summary Page Instructions below. Also, you will complete that week’s portion of the cumulative concept map. See Concept Map Instructions below. This work should live in your reader’s notebook.

**Article Summary Page Instructions:** You will complete one of these pages for your reading each week. You are expected to read at least five articles about your topic. After reading each article, record title of the article, the website/magazine/newspaper/book it came from, and then write a summary of the information presented in the article. See the example below:

“Prepare Yourselves: New Shawn Mendes Music is Coming”; Teen Vogue

According to Hannah Weintraub at Teen Vogue, Shawn Mendes took a break from his busy schedule touring with Taylor Swift to announce this weekend that he will re-release his album *Handwritten* on November 20, 2015. The new version of this album will include five live track recordings of original songs and four totally new tracks.

**Concept Map Instructions**: You will build a concept map with the information you gather over the course of our three week study. The basic outline is completed for you. Your task will be to add information as you find it over the course of the week.

The key is as follows:

* The rectangle at the top is for that week’s topic.
* Coming off the topic are five ovals. These ovals are for interesting facts you find about your topic.
* Off each oval is another rectangle. This is for the name of the article/publication from which the fact came.
* Off each of each oval is also a cloud that should contain a text citation that connects to the fact you found.