Life after School - Research Project and Presentation

**Scenario:** You have just graduated from college and you are looking forward to relaxing for the summer and getting together with all your friends. BUT WAIT…your family has decided to move to western Pennsylvania to be near your grandparents! They are leaving at the end of the month.

Should you stay or should you go?

**Your challenge:** You need to make a quick decision. Can you find a good job and live on your own? You have a week to figure this out and present your results to the class.

You need to follow the step-by-step planning process in this project to research and analyze your prospects. Each step of your research and analysis will be performed using an activity and the Internet to find your answers. *Each finished step will be completed online and printed for submission with your final presentation. Your PowerPoint MUST be submitted to me at* *srusso@ocean.k12.nj.us* *BEFORE the scheduled exam date.*

**Timeframe:** We will work in the library for five days, 5/30 – 6/6, and then the library will close for the year.The final presentations will be performed in front of the class on the day of your scheduled final exam.

A calendar of milestones is included at the end of this page.

**Purposes of the Project:**

* Recognize and compare the opportunities for employment and housing in this area.
* Understand the gross pay and net pay associated with the employment opportunities.
* Gain the skills needed to research, analyze, and make decisions using the Internet as a resource.
* Create an accurate portrayal of your choices in a PowerPoint presentation.
* Share topic understanding with peers by working with a partner and presenting the results to the class.

**Task:**

1. Follow the six-step planning format to research and report on each critical decision point.
2. Work with a partner to create a PowerPoint to present your topic, to include summary and citations.

**Criteria for Success:**

Your final project will answer the following questions:

1. Where can I find a job, what is it, and how does it pay?
2. How much money will I have after taxes and deductions?
3. Where can I get an apartment, and how much will it cost me with a roommate?
4. Can I afford to buy a car? Which car? What is car insurance going to cost me?
5. Will I be able to eat after all my other expenses?
6. What is my monthly budget?

**Sources:**

You should have at least one source per topic, and these are provided for you for each step.

**Citations**: Write the bibliographic citation on a separate “works cited” page, MLA format, in your PowerPoint. You may use http://citationmachine.net/ for help.

**Calendar:**

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| **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| **5/28 - Holiday** | **5/29 – Classroom review of project**  | **5/30 - Library:** Research and completion of “Find a Job”, and “Take-Home-Pay” steps. Start “Budget” step. | **5/31 - Library:** Research and completion of “Rent an Apartment” step. Add figures to Budget. | **6/1 - Holiday** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **6/4 – Library:**Research and completion of “Car Loans” step. Add to budget. | **6/5 – Library:**Research and completion of “Food and Entertainment” step. Finalize Budget. Begin PowerPoint. | **6/6 – Library:**Finish PowerPoint. Prepare to present. |  **6/7-**Classroom | **6/8-**Classroom |