

*Authentic Science Research  
Summer Assignment  
For  
Incoming Sophomores*

1. **Read** and **keep** (cut out, print, or copy) at least 10 articles from magazines, newspapers, or books. The articles should be of interest to you in any field of science you may wish to study. Remember, this includes *any* discipline within the field of science, e.g., chemistry, biology, physics, astronomy, medicine, genetics, forensic science, zoology, microbiology...the list is endless!
2. **Summarize** each article in one typed page. Include the title, author, a 100-word summary of key points, and your reaction to the article.
3. **Ask** three questions about the topic of each article you read, and identify the scientist(s) and/or location of any laboratories mentioned.
4. **Prioritize** your articles from most favorite to least favorite - we will be presenting these in class in the fall.

*How do I Identify a Research Topic?*

1. Search your memory of any science course or science experience you have ever had and identify a topic that you or your earlier science teachers have never had the time to explore.
2. Ask your parents what they remember about science questions, ideas, and interests you have ever had...
3. Search your memory about past chapters in textbooks that you really loved but never had time to explore.
4. Watch science TV shows (e.g., *Beakman's World*; PBS Science programs) to see if any interest is sparked.
5. Explore and identify any serious science information you are interested in (e.g., diseases, gravity, lasers, computers, genetics, etc.).
6. Notice what areas you find during your summer assignment that particularly intrigue you!