**Project Overview**

Throughout this unit, we have explored Mexican history and culture through artwork. Murals, songs, poetry, and food all teach us about the past and present of the nation of Mexico’s identity. Collaborating with your group, you will explore modern issues within Mexico, write informative articles, and create a piece of artwork that tells the story of Modern Mexico.

**SPICE Connections**

Your group will be responsible for exploring **one** of the SPICE Elements. For example, one group will explore Social issues in Mexico while another explores the role of Economics.

**Individual Responsibilities**

Within your group, you will choose a unique aspect of your assigned SPICE Element. You will then use 21st century research skills to build up background knowledge and write an informative article about the current state of Mexico. For example, if your group assigned the social aspects of Mexico, one person may examine women’s rights while another explores the role of race in Modern Mexico.

**Group Responsibilities**

 You will work as a group to decide on important topics related to your SPICE category, support one another in research, and assist in the writing and editing stage of all group member’s informative articles. You will also collaborate to create a unique piece of art that helps tell the story of your SPICE Element. You will have creative license on your artwork, but it should be inspired by the art traditions of Mexico.

**Assessment**

During this project, you will be assessed on the following standards

* Informative Writing: Focus
* Informative Writing: Historical Context
* Informative Writing: Use of Evidence
* Informative Writing: Social Studies Writing
* 21st Century Research
* 21st Century Life Skills

**Due Dates**

Due Dates will be communicated by your teacher throughout the unit.

**Online Research**

During this project, you are responsible for adding to your knowledge about your topic through online research. Your task is to use 21st century online research skills to find credible and reliable sources that help you answer your question. The evidence that you gather through these sources will be the foundation of your essay.

**Things to Pay Attention To When Search Online**

1. **Source**: Is the website one that is credible? Can you trust that the information on it is accurate and that the person writing knows what they are talking about?
2. **Date**: When was the article published? Is it recent enough to relate to your topic?
3. **Author**: Who is the author? What is their job? Do they know about the topic?
4. **Evidence**: Do they use evidence effectively? Do they use emic, etic, and ethos? Do they include statistics? Quotations from experts? Personal experiences? Other types of evidence do they use?
5. **Content**: Does the content help you answer your essential question? If not, you will have to find another source.
6. **Additional Links**: Look for additional links and resources on articles.

**Possible Online Resources**

CNN BBC The Guardian

PBS LA Times Vice News (Great for Videos)

NY Times Washington Post

USA Today The Oregonian

The Atlantic News Week

TIME Huffington Post

Mother Jones The Daily Beast

**Tips when Searching for Articles**

When performing an online search try out these strategies.

1. Develop a key question or phrase. Instead of searching “*Mexico*,” search for “*Women’s Rights in Mexico.”* Instead of “*Pollution*,” search “*Pollution in Mexico*.”
2. Search an online resource in addition to your topic. Instead of just searching “*Women’s Rights in Mexico,”* search, “*Women’s Rights in Mexico Huffington Post.”*
3. Follow questions and leads as you read. If you see an important idea, do more research on it. For example, I saw information on abortion rates in China during the One Child Policy. Investigate the issue to see what else you can learn about the effects of the policy on modern China.
4. Type 2015-2016 after your searches to find more recent sources.
5. Look for additional links to articles on the articles you find.
6. Stay patient and keep searching!

**Tracking Your Sources**

Complete all sections of the Research Reading Notes (These can also be completed using videos). If using a video, concrete details can be things the narrator, interviewer, or person being interviewed says. It can also be images that you see on the screen.