



Personal

Achievement in

Learning

P.A.L. Information Session Agenda

- P.A.L. Expectations
- Examples of Past P.A.L. Topics and Ways to Present
- P.A.L. Timeline

What is P.A.L.?

- P.A.L. stands for **P**ersonal **A**chievement in **L**earning
- The P.A.L. process was developed as a way for students to choose a topic that interests them, to research that topic in a variety of ways, and to present what was learned to their peers.
- The goal of the P.A.L. process is to help encourage the idea of life-long learning.

P.A.L. Expectations

- Key Questions
- Sources
- Research Notes (at least 15 notes each week)
- Presentation

P.A.L. Expectations

Key Questions

- Research using at least three questions
- Use your approved sources to research
- Think of more questions and find more answers
- Share questions and answers during your P.A.L. presentation

P.A.L. Expectations

Sources:

- 2 grade level sources-- books and/or other sources
- Sources must be brought in and approved by your teacher
- Sources should be used to find Important Information, History, and Interesting Facts about your topic
- Sources will be shared during your presentation

P.A.L. Expectations

Sources could include:

- Books, encyclopedia articles, magazine articles, videos, websites, and interviews with mentors.

Two tools that you were taught to use in Library that could be useful during P.A.L. are:

- The World Book Online
- WebPath Express

P.A.L. Expectations

Research Notes:

- You will take written notes as you research—at home and at school
- Notes should be written in your P.A.L. booklet
- Notes should be organized/color coded each week under the categories of Important Information, History, and Interesting Facts
- You will bring your notes into school to be checked by your teacher—minimum of 15 a week

P.A.L. Expectations

P.A.L. Presentation:

- ❑ You will give a **8-10 minute presentation** to share your information with your class

- ❑ Your presentation should include:
 - **Opening** (explain your topic and why you chose it)
 - **Questions** you wanted to research and the information you learned (answers to your questions)
 - **Visual and/or demonstration**
 - **Reflection on your research process**
 - **List of Sources** used to research your topic

P.A.L. Topics

- The first step in the P.A.L. process is to think of your Topic. Your final topic must be selected for approval by Wednesday, January 24th
- Topic should be narrow and specific

American Girl Dolls

Nail
Art

HOBBIES

Juggling

History of Marvel Comics

Unicycling

Skiing

SPORTS

Football

Horseback Riding

Glass Blowing

Cartooning

Art

Origami

Drawing Portraits

How to
Create a
Website

Technology

Coding a
Video
Game

History
of Video
Games

Ways to Present

- Demonstration
- Tri-fold Board
 - Power Point
 - Video/ iMovie
 - Prezi
- Your own creative idea

students will be shown how to use Prezi, iMovie and PowerPoint in school

Demonstration

Knot Tying

Archery

Chemistry

Wind Tunnels

Tri-fold Board

How to Train
Your Dog

How to Sew a Skirt

Power Point Presentation

Electromagnetic
Spectrum

English Castles

Video

Building a Hamster Cage

Building a Birdhouse

Learning how to
Figure Skate

Prezi

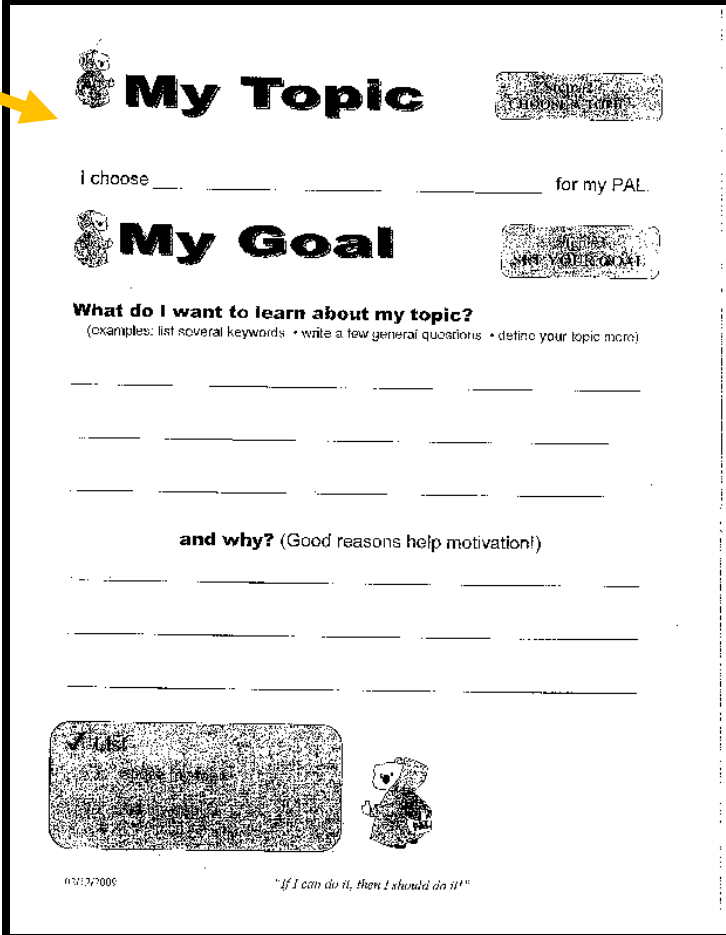
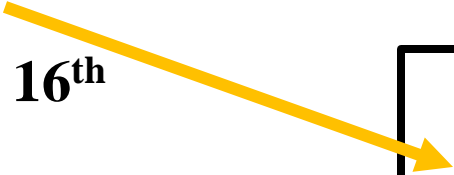
The United Nations

Unicorns

P.A.L. Timeline

Week of January 16th

- PAL work in school: Brainstorm P.A.L. interests, How to Narrow a Topic
- January 19th : PAL Information Session
- Homework due next week:
Discuss your interests with your parents
Decide on a final topic
Fill out “My Topic” in your PAL packet
Topic due by Wednesday, January 24th
- Teacher needs to approve your topic



My Topic CHOOSE YOUR TOPIC

I choose _____ for my PAL.

My Goal WRITE YOUR GOAL

What do I want to learn about my topic?
(examples: list several keywords • write a few general questions • define your topic more)

and why? (Good reasons help motivation!)

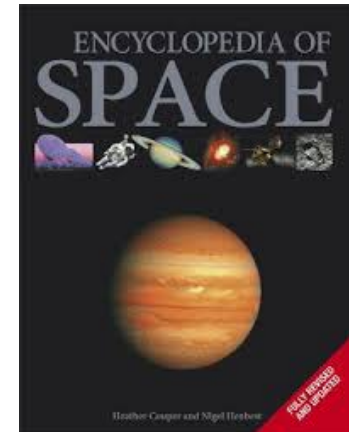
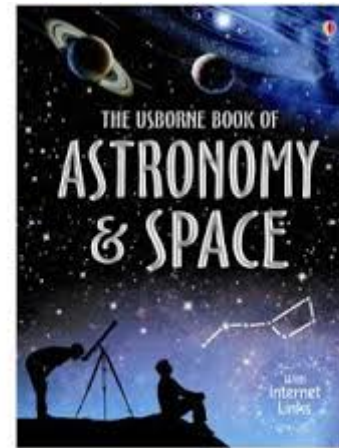
03/27/2005 "If I can do it, then I should do it!"

P.A.L. Timeline

**Weeks of January 29th
and February 5th**

Two grade level sources
to read for research

- PAL work in school: Think About Goal, Create a P.A.L. Plan, Write Focus Questions
- PAL work at home: Where to get sources? Library, Internet, etc...
- Find a mentor?
- Place to visit?
- Homework this week and next: Bring in **TWO sources** about your PAL topic by **Monday, February 5th** to be approved by your teacher and begin your research.



P.A.L. Timeline

Week of February 12th

- PAL work in school: Look for more sources, Read and take notes
- PAL work at home: Read and take notes
- Schedule time to work at home and to set small goals for each day/week
- Homework this week: **Bring in organized notes and PAL Update # 1 due by Wednesday, February 21th**

Name: _____

PAL UPDATE #1

1. What part of my P.A.L. plan have I completed this week?

2. What part of my P.A.L. plan did I hope to complete, but didn't or couldn't and why?

3. What part of my P.A.L. plan do I want to accomplish over the next week?

4. Am I on track? YES NO

P.A.L. Reflections:

Please reflect on your P.A.L. experience so far. What have you enjoyed about P.A.L. so far? What have you found to be difficult or frustrating?

P.A.L. Timeline

Week of February 19th

- PAL work at home:
Continue to read and take notes, meet with “mentor”
- Schedule time to work at home and to set small goals for each day/week
- Homework this week: **Bring in organized notes and PAL Update # 2 by February 27th**

Name: _____

PAL UPDATE #2

1. What part of my P.A.L. plan have I completed this week?

2. What part of my P.A.L. plan did I hope to complete, but didn't or couldn't and why?

3. What part of my P.A.L. plan do I want to accomplish over the next week?

4. Am I on track? YES NO

P.A.L. Reflections:
Please reflect on your P.A.L. experience so far. What have you enjoyed about P.A.L. so far? What have you found to be difficult or frustrating?

P.A.L. Timeline


Week of February 26th

PAL work in school: Sign up for P.A.L. presentation date/time

PAL work at home: Finish notes, Begin to plan presentation

Schedule time to work at home and to set small goals for each day/week

Homework this week: **Bring in organized notes and PAL Update # 3 Due by Monday, March 5th**



Share Your PAL

Step #9
My PAL
Presentation

Step 9 has two basic parts: **organizing your information and creating a presentation.** For the past few weeks you have been thinking of questions and researching to find the answers. You may even have learned a new skill that you want to share with the class.

QUESTION 1: How will you share information during the presentation?

- Will you read from note cards?
- Will you put your facts on a display board or in a slide show?

QUESTION 2: What kind of visual will you share during your presentation?

Here are some ways to **SHOW** your P.A.L. topic to the class:

Display boards/posters	Diorama
Computer slide show (Power Point/Prezi)	Demonstration
Playing a Game	Time Line
Showing Photographs	Experiments
Acting/Drama	Sharing an Interview
Costumes	Electric quiz board
Models	Talk show/news report
Display items/props	
Teach a lesson	

Remember: Be sure to talk about your "process" during your presentation.

- Where did you find your best information?
- Who was your mentor or helped you the most during the process?
- What did you like or not like about learning about your P.A.L.?

It's time to get started: Make a plan and gather supplies. We can't wait to learn about your P.A.L. ©

Name: _____

PAL UPDATE #3

By now you should have finished the research part of your PAL and should be planning how you will present what you have learned to your class.

Give a brief explanation of how you will present your PAL:

Which visual(s) are you including in your presentation?

What are the remaining parts of your presentation that you still need to work on in the next two weeks?

Remember:

- If you are using a Power Point slide show during your P.A.L., you **MUST** bring it in on a flash drive. If you embed video clips or animation, you will want to check that it will play on our school software in advance of presentation day.
- If you are showing clips from YouTube (or any videos) or using a website, you must have them approved by your teacher in advance of your presentation.
- All visuals involving technology (Print, Movies, etc.) should be brought to school in advance to be sure they will run on our school software on presentation day.

P.A.L. Timeline


Week of March 5th

PAL work at home:

Prepare PAL presentation (talk and visuals)

Homework this week:

Prepare P.A.L. presentation, and begin to practice in front of your family



Share Your PAL

Step #9
My PAL
Presentation

My PAL Topic is:

During my PAL Presentation I Plan to...


<p>SUGGESTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Putting your talking points on index cards• Use bright, easy to read colors and fonts• Include visuals that are big enough to see• Bring objects to pass around or demonstrate• Have the class try to do something• Prepare for questions/Make a quiz• Make it fun!	<p>AVOID:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing every fact you learned on your index cards• Making Power Points with fact-filled pages• Small font size/dull colors• Copied pictures that are hard to see from the back of the room• Too many details• Not preparing for questions• Walking until the last minute to finish!
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P.A.L. Timeline

Week of March 12th

PAL work at home:
Finalize PAL presentation
(talk and visuals)

Homework this week: **Make sure all visuals and other PAL materials are ready to be brought to school by Monday, March 19th**



Share Your PAL

Step #9
My PAL
Presentation

My PAL presentation date is: _____

My parents WILL or WILL NOT be attending my PAL presentation. (circle one)

Things to think about:

My final presentation is 8-10 minutes long.	YES
I have practiced my final presentation in front of someone at home several times.	YES
I have talked to my teacher about any technology I am planning to use and have practiced using the technology on my own.	YES
I have all the materials I will need to present— notecards, props, costume, handouts, etc..	YES
I am prepared to answer questions that my classmates might have about my topic.	YES
I have looked at the Peer Review Sheet and Teacher Evaluation Sheet so I know how my PAL will be evaluated.	YES
I am EXCITED to share what I have learned©	YES

You are READY to present your PAL! We can't wait to hear all about your topic! Remember to smile... a LOT!

P.A.L. Timeline

Week of March 19th

PAL Presentations all
week in Core
classrooms!

P.A.L. next steps...

Finalize your topic this weekend, and be ready to share your chosen topic with your teacher to be approved no later than next Wednesday, January 24th!

You may not choose a US state, an animal or a food as your topic

