

**RIDGECROFT SCHOOL
CRITICAL TOPICS
2006-2007**

TOPICS/CONCEPTS	TIME	OBJECTIVES	RESOURCES
FIRST GRADING PERIOD	30 DAYS		
Immigration, Population, Racism, Discrimination, Terrorism, War, Religion		GOALS 1-6	Internet, newspapers, magazines, books
SECOND GRADING PERIOD	30 DAYS		
Globalization, Employment, Careers, Education		GOALS 1-6	Internet, newspapers, magazines, books
THIRD GRADING PERIOD	30 DAYS		
Health Issues, Drugs, Obesity		GOALS 1-6	Internet, newspapers, magazines
FOURTH GRADING PERIOD	30 DAYS		
Leadership, Issues of Character, Entitlement, Role Models, Influence of Celebrities		GOALS 1-6	Internet, newspapers, magazines
FIFTH GRADING PERIOD	30 DAYS		
Global Warming, Natural Disasters, Environmental Concerns, Climate Change		GOALS 1-6	Internet, newspapers, magazines
SIXTH GRADING PERIOD	30 DAYS		
Finances, Economy, Stock Market, Identify Theft, Social Security, Retirement Costs, Credit Cards		GOALS 1-6	Internet, newspapers, magazines, books

RATIONALE FOR THE COURSE:

Today's student lives and learns in a world that has been radically altered by the ready availability of vast stores of information in a variety of formats. The learning process and the information search process mirror each other: Students actively seek to construct meaning from the sources that encounter and to create products that shape and communicate that meaning effectively. Developing expertise in accessing, evaluating, and using information is in fact the authentic learning that modern education seeks to promote." (NC Information Skills Curriculum Philosophy, 1999, IMPACT, p. 20)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Students will learn to research information on critical topics that will affect them during their lifetime. Students will build understanding and examine possible solutions. Students will build vocabulary.
2. Students will develop skills with appropriate technological tools (graphics calculators, computers, and probe ware).
3. Students will learn debate, presentation, and conversational skills (listening, asking critical questions).
4. Students will write research papers.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. EACH DAY: Daily participation, on-task with discussions
2. DUE EACH FRIDAY: Two Summaries of newspaper articles on critical topics
3. DUE EACH GRADING PERIOD: SUMMARIZING PROJECT such as research paper, powerpoint, class presentation

GRADING: Based on correctness, completeness, creativity

Deadlines: 1 day late-drop one letter grade, 2 days late-drop two letter grades, 3 days late-get new topic to do