

Welcome to the SSS Science Program!

9th Grade Summer Project

The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not 'Eureka!' but 'That's funny...!'- Isaac Asimov (1920-1992)

Science begins with curiosity and questioning. This summer, we would like you to take a look at the world around you. Sit in a park and observe your surroundings. Think about the beauty that surrounds you. How good are your observation skills?

Look at the oddities and patterns in the natural world. Are there things in nature that you've never noticed or maybe you've always wondered about? What questions do these observations provoke?

Your assignment this summer is to:

- 1) Take a careful look at the world around you
- 2) Write down 5 thoughtful observations
- 3) Develop at least 3 questions derived from each of these observations
- 4) Put the observations and questions in the chart provided
- 5) Choose one observation. Write a 2-3 page, typed, double spaced research paper to answer the related questions.
- 6) Be prepared to turn in the research paper **AND** the list of observations with the accompanying questions on the first day of school in September

Remember:

- It is important that your essay is your own work!
- Please do not plagiarize from the internet or your other sources.
- Use correct grammar and spelling.
- **Be sure to hand in the table below listing your 5 observations and possible research questions with your final essay.**
- Use at least 3 resources. These resources must be properly recorded and submitted in with your essay in the form of a correctly formatted bibliography (a useful site is www.easybib.com/)
- This assignment including the completed chart and essay will be due on the first day of school. Good luck and see you in the fall!

	Observations	Possible Research Questions
<i>Example #1</i>	When I'm sitting in the park, I often see a pigeon puff up its body and chase around other pigeons.	Why do pigeons do this? What triggers this behavior in pigeons? Is this behavior more likely during mating season?
<i>Example #2</i>	I feel the warmth of the sun on my skin when I'm outside	How does the heat from the sun reach us? Why do my darker clothes warm up more than the lighter ones?
<i>Example #3</i>	I like to drink iced drinks in the summer to keep me cool, but I see that the outside of the glass gets wet.	Where does the water come from? Why does a glass with warm water in it during the winter not get wet?
	Your Own Observations	Possible Research Questions to these observations?
1		
2		

3		
4		
5		