

Chicago Latina Trailblazers Research Topics

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.

1. Literacy, Education & Civil Rights — Research & Evaluate

Research the importance of literacy and education and their relationship to social class and civil rights. Identify groups that have historically been denied equal access to education. Analyze how limited educational access can affect individuals and communities. Create and perform a Public Service Announcement explaining why literacy and educational access remain important.

W.9-10.7; W.9-10.8; W.9-10.9; SL.9-10.4; SL.9-10.5;

Higher-order skills: Research, cause/effect, analysis, evaluation, synthesis.

2. Religious Traditions — Research & Compare

Research a religious tradition or denomination different from your own, or choose two traditions you want to learn about. Compare their beliefs, practices, histories, or traditions. Analyze significant similarities and differences and explain how religion can influence individual or community identity. Write a short research paper using properly cited sources.

W.9-10.2; W.9-10.7; W.9-10.8;

Higher-order skills: Research, compare/contrast, analysis, synthesis.

3. Code-Switching — Research & Analyze

Research code-switching and explain why people change languages, dialects, or ways of speaking in different situations. Examine when code-switching occurs and its social and cultural importance. Connect your research to examples from the Trailblazers and, if appropriate, your own experiences.

W.9-10.2; W.9-10.7; W.9-10.8; W.9-10.9; L.9-10.3;

Higher-order skills: Research, analysis, application, cause/effect.

4. Racism, Discrimination & the Law — Research & Evaluate

Many Trailblazers experienced racism or discrimination that affected their lives, careers, or organizations. Research a related court case, historical incident, or current event. Analyze how the issue relates to a Trailblazer's experience and evaluate what changed—or did not change—as a result. Use at least three credible sources and provide citations.

W.9-10.1; W.9-10.7; W.9-10.8; W.9-10.9;

Higher-order skills: Research, analysis, comparison, evaluation.

5. Social Change — Research & Compare

Research a significant social change experienced by the Trailblazers in Chicago or the United States. Compare conditions during the Trailblazers' time with conditions today. Analyze what has changed, what has remained similar, and what factors contributed to those changes. Present your findings through a multimedia presentation or video interview format.

W.9-10.2; W.9-10.6; W.9-10.7; W.9-10.8; SL.9-10.4; SL.9-10.5; SL.9-10.6;

Higher-order skills: Research, compare/contrast, analysis, cause/effect, synthesis.

6. **Historical Context — Research & Analyze**

Review the Notes section of a chapter of your choice. Select one historical or social event connected to the chapter's time period and research it using multiple credible sources. Explain the event's causes and effects and analyze how understanding the event provides greater insight into the Trailblazer's experiences.

W.9-10.2; W.9-10.7; W.9-10.8; W.9-10.9;

Higher-order skills: Research, contextual analysis, cause/effect, synthesis.

7. **Social Clubs & Gangs — Research & Compare**

Research social clubs formed by young people in U.S. cities during the early-to-mid 1900s. Compare social clubs with gangs during this period. Explain their original purposes and analyze the social, economic, or neighborhood conditions that contributed to some groups changing over time.

W.9-10.2; W.9-10.7; W.9-10.8;

Higher-order skills: Research, compare/contrast, historical analysis, cause/effect.

8. **Biography, Autobiography, Testimonial & Memoir — Research & Compare**

Research at least two styles of writing about a person's life, such as biography, autobiography, testimonial, or memoir. Explain the defining characteristics of each and compare how they present a person's experiences and point of view. Evaluate which style might be most effective for telling a Trailblazer's story and explain why. Create a visual to accompany your findings.

W.9-10.2; W.9-10.6; W.9-10.7; W.9-10.8;

Higher-order skills: Research, compare/contrast, analysis, evaluation, synthesis.

9. **Cultural Identity & Adaptation; Money & Resources — Research & Analyze**

(Guadalupe Reyes, Ch 1, and Carmen Chico, Ch 4, and others)

Research how immigrants and culturally diverse communities adapt to American society while maintaining their cultural identities. Using your research and specific evidence from the text, compare the strategies of at least two Trailblazers. Were they assimilating, integrating, or doing both? How do their experiences compare with broader patterns found in your research? Cite evidence and defend your conclusion.

RI.9-10.1; RI.9-10.3; W.9-10.2; W.9-10.7; W.9-10.8; W.9-10.9;

Higher-order skills: Research, compare/contrast, analysis, synthesis, evaluation.

10. **American Dream — Compare, Analyze & Analyze (Research)**

Using specific evidence from the Trailblazers' lives, compare your American Dream with that of at least two Trailblazers. How did their challenges shape their goals? How do your circumstances shape yours? Choose two of those challenges and explain how they affect the general population. How many people are affected by each challenge? Cite evidence from the chapters and relevant data.

RI.9-10.1; RI.9-10.3; W.9-10.2; W.9-10.9;

Higher-order skills: Compare/contrast, analysis, reflection, research, perspective-taking.

11. **Cultural Identity & Adaptation — Analyze & Evaluate (Research)**

Research how immigrants and culturally diverse communities adapt to American society while maintaining their cultural identities. Using your research and specific evidence from the text, compare the strategies of at least two Trailblazers. Were they assimilating, integrating, or doing both? How do their experiences compare with broader patterns found in your research? Cite evidence and defend your conclusion.

RI.9-10.1; RI.9-10.3; W.9-10.2; W.9-10.7; W.9-10.8; W.9-10.9;

Higher-order skills: Research, compare/contrast, analysis, synthesis, evaluation.