

2026 Forum Summer Assignment
Grades 6-8 Returning Students Only

Greetings, Scholars!

I hope you're getting outside to enjoy the beautiful weather! While you're out and about, you can begin thinking about your first Forum for next year. Keep reading for the highlights...

Umbrella theme: **cycles**

Task	Due Date	Details
Topic Choice ☐ Done	By July 15	Email Ms. Desjarlais at sdesjarlais@academyhill.org to get your topic approved. Please include a detailed description of your proposed topic, including what aspects of the cycle you will research. Remember, you should be digging deep into your topic.
Create an Outline ☐ Done	Submitted by July 30	Create an outline for your topic. It should have at least three main parts that will be the focus of your research. Type and share your outline with Ms. Desjarlais for approval.
Research	Ongoing	Once your outline is approved, it's time to begin the research! Remember, there are sources other than the Internet: ☐ Book ☐ Interview ☐ Magazine Please use at least one source type other than the Internet.
Write your script. ☐ Done Include time on script ☐ Done	Due by August 31	Grades 5 and 6: 4 to 6 minute time limit Grades 7 and 8: 6 to 8 minute time limit Remember to read your script aloud and time it. Include your time on your typed script. Please type your script and share it with Ms. Desjarlais at sdesjarlais@academyhill.org .
Create your slideshow. ☐ Done	Due by August 31	Review and follow the guidelines I've attached for how to create a good slideshow. Remember to share your slideshow with Ms. Desjarlais at sdesjarlais@academyhill.org .

Please follow the following guidelines when preparing your Forum slideshow:

The slides should enhance the learning, not distract from it.

Follow the 5 by 5 rule (as closely as you can)

- No more than 5 lines on a slide
- No more than 5 words in a line
- Use keywords and not complete sentences!
- Keep it simple.
- You should present/say many more words than what is on the slide.

Large pictures on each slide

- Primary sources/real photographs are best.
- Consider adding a background to your slides.

Simple font

- Don't get too fancy with color, animation, and style.
- Times New Roman, Comic Sans, Lexend, or Arial
- Lighter font colors wash out when on the big screen.
- Be sure to contrast the font color with the background color.

Capitalize slide titles

- Capitalize the first letter of all important words in the title.

Sources

- REMEMBER THAT ALL PICTURES HAVE A SOURCE TOO!
- GOOGLE IMAGES IS NOT A SOURCE
- Search engines (Google, etc) are NOT sources!

Discussion Questions

- Make a slide for each discussion question.
- Consider including an image on each slide.

Here are some possible ideas for the cycle umbrella theme. These are just to get you started. Feel free to find your own ideas!

- Olympic cycles and traditions
- Injury and rehabilitation cycles
- Cycles of popular music styles
- Trends in movies and television
- The cycle of invention, improvement, and replacement
- Recycling and electronic waste
- Renewable energy cycles
- Drought and flood cycles
- Climate patterns such as El Niño and La Niña
- Forest regeneration after wildfires

Questions to consider as you research:

- What is a cycle?
- Why do cycles occur?
- What happens when a cycle is disrupted?
- How do cycles affect people and the environment?
- Can cycles be predicted?
- How have cycles changed over time?