

Task 3: Complete Your Project Proposal Planning Guide.

Senior Project: Life-Ready Leadership in Action

Getting Started: Begin with the End in Mind

How to Pick a Project: To make your senior project fun, rewarding and relevant, pick your passion. What are you passionate about? What is something you have always wanted to do or to explore? Then connect your passion of interest to the Academic Learning of your research and writing. Each project must have an Academic Learning connection with the Senior Research Paper. In addition, students must choose to connect projects with a career exploration and/or a community service. We strongly encourage junior students to choose a project that connects to a career exploration and community service, but it must connect to at least one.

Choose a Research Question: The Academic Learning will come from what you learn in your research and writing when completing your senior research paper. For your project proposal that you will complete as a junior, you must choose a research question to guide the research you will complete as a senior. From your research, you will develop a thesis statement that will be supported by the evidence you discovered in your research.

Expectations: Expectations are very high for all students when completing the Senior Project. Excellent projects are a must. For example, students will be expected to manage their time well to meet deadlines, keep accurate records, and complete a thorough project journal with academic integrity. When a project is well planned, it most likely will be done well. If you pick your passion and then plan well and execute well, you will find a high level of relevance and satisfaction in your work. Your senior project will be a highlight experience of high school.

Senior Project Support Team: Ask for help and use the assistance of your support team comprising of an administrator, counselor, English 12 teacher, parent(s)/guardian(s) and a senior project advisor and mentor.

Project Examples: The Senior Project could be any of the following examples:

- A physical product: painting and selling your work, modeling for an agency, fashioning designs, creating computer program(s), rebuilding engines, constructing cabinets.
- A written product: short story, book of poetry, novelette, published articles, periodical, photographs.
- A performance: dance or music recital, drama production, music video, fashion show, a formal speech in front of a large audience.
- A teaching or leadership experience: teach junior high health classes about teen alcoholism, teach about knights and armor to a middle school class, coach a little league team, or organize and hold a sports camp.
- A physical experience: learn to scuba dive, organize/run a marathon, start a fitness program and train others, earn a brown belt in karate while training another to a white.
- A career-related project: "shadow" a police officer, view medical procedures, interview people in the airline field and prepare a manuscript on the subject.
- A technology project: develop a homepage on the World Wide Web, computer generated images or movies, photography and photo editing for an organized event.

Project Proposal Planning Guide

Name: _____

Advisor: _____ Approval Signature _____

1. **Pick Your Passion:** Brainstorm some ideas of what you are passionate about and some things you have always wanted to explore that could be done as a Senior Project. Record your first choice below and explain why it would be a meaningful Senior Project for you to pursue.

2. **Choose Your Connection:** Will your senior project be connected to a Career Exploration or a Community Service or both? Explain with detail below the connection that your senior project will have to a Career Exploration and/or a Community Service.

3. **Think of a Mentor:** What kind of mentor in what field would have the expertise to guide you through this project? Record what kind of mentor you want and need below.

3. **Choose Your Research Question:** What do you want to know about the area of your interest? Think of a research question and record it below that will guide you to learn more about your interest and eventually lead to the creation of a thesis statement that can be supported with research. Remember the paper is NOT ABOUT the project, but related to it.

4. **Describe Your Learning Stretch:** How will this Senior Project (Research Paper and 40-Hour Project) extend your learning beyond your present experience and knowledge? Describe your learning stretch below – what new things will you learn?

5. **Describe Your Project:** With as much detail as possible describe below the 40-hour portion of your Senior Project. What will you be doing and learning? Record below how you will document your project time for judges (other than a project journal)?