

Senior Project/Experience
Harrisburg High School – Class of 2013
“Do, Write, Present”

“The purpose of the senior project is to demonstrate skill in communication paired with a proportional experience of depth and breadth that broadens the scope of high school curriculum to reveal accumulated development of each student.”

Proposal: All proposals for the senior project must be confirmed by the principal. Senior project proposals shall be confirmed by the first week of October. However, proposals must be submitted by May 1, 2012 using the project proposal form.

The proposal may come from these areas: (See attached examples)

- Career Connections
- Service to school
- Service to Community
- Service to family
- Higher academic pursuits
- Civic pathways
- International investigations
- Other – as confirmed by principal

Proposals must be submitted on the proposal form. The proposal will be submitted in person or by email to the principal, who may ask for more detail before confirmation.

Accountability – A passing grade of C or better must be earned for the Senior Experience to become a graduate of Harrisburg High School. Grading percentage will follow the Harrisburg High policy for percentage. The senior project is graded as per collegiate expectations. Credit is determined this way:

- Paper – 30 percent
- Presentation - 25 percent
- Impact to community, Journal– 45 percent

Lowest grade for passing – 80 percent

Requirements:

There are three strands to the Senior Project/Experience:

1. An action/reflection journal(electronic)
2. A research paper(electronic)
3. A visual presentation(electronic)

DEADLINES ARE BELOW – HOWEVER, ALL WORK MAY BE SUBMITTED AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO A DEADLINE

1. Action/Reflection journal:

The action/reflection journal is a diary of the experience. It may take any form of choice of the student, but should include the date of each entry. It will be saved as a word document. There will be a minimum of 20 entries. The content shall be both narrative and reflective. A day's entry will contain a description of action, along with a reflection of action. From time-to-time the principal may provide a question as a basis for a day's entry.(See example attached). This journal will be evaluated by the principal and will be worth 40 percent of the grade. This journal should be sent by email to Kevin.lein@k12.sd.us.

DEADLINE FOR JOURNAL – MARCH 8, 2013

(If a project's timeline passes the journal due date, see the principal)

2. Research Paper:

Tentative requirements for the research paper include:

Minimum of six pages which will include the cover and the bibliography.

Minimum of eight related references, of which only four may be internet based.

Three sections:

Introduction – no more than one page(can be less)

Research support for experience – no more than four pages- no less than 2 pages

Summary reflection – no minimum or maximum

The research paper will be evaluated by a social science instructor(Government) or the principal and the evaluator may provide more specific detail as to format and content.

Research will follow APA style. The library instructor will provide details.

The paper will be submitted to the principal electronically.

The research paper will be 30 percent of the senior experience grade and will also be a graded item for the senior government course.

DEADLINE FOR RESEARCH PAPER – APRIL 17, 2013

(If a project requires time after the due date, see the principal)

Putting the paper together:

Cover

Page 1 – Introduction

Pages 2-3 Research(could include 4 and 5)

Next page – Summary – no minimum or maximum

Bibliography

3. Visual Presentation:

The visual presentation will be a summary of the experience and research. The presentation may take the form of any electronic platform including, but not limited to:

PowerPoint, WebQuest, Web Expose, PhotoShop, etc.

The student will present at a time and date to be determined to the TAP group, other seniors, the mentor and any other interested parties.

A rubric for this presentation will be available in December, 2013.

Presentations will be scheduled during TAP through January, February, March and April.

The student's mentor and advisor must attend the presentation.

Senior students must attend a minimum of one other presentations.. A student will lose 5 percentage points for not attending one other presentation. Seniors shall turn in one presentation rubric to the principal.

Students will follow the rubric to create the presentation.

Students will have a maximum of ten minutes for presentation.

The visual presentation will be evaluated by panel using the rubric and be worth 25 percent of the senior experience grade.

Students will be expected to conduct a professional presentation including appropriate dress, speech, and materials.

Last day to present is April 30th, 2013.

Paired or group projects:

Students may pair or work as a group on a project. However, papers, journals and presentations will be done individually and no part of the project's accountability may be similar or copied. Although a pair or group may work on the same project, all references, resources, reflections, visuals, etc. must be unique to each individual. Any duplication will be reason for failure of the project. As it may be difficult to live up to this expectation, it is recommended that students choose their own projects, unless the experience warrants collaboration.

Examples:

Continuation projects:

Big Brother/Big Sister

Special needs assistance

Scholarship Foundation

School records and achievements

Alumni Association

Lil' Angels Daycare and Beaver's Island

Some Project Examples:

Career Connections – Job shadowing, exploration of a complete career cluster, service-to-work opportunity

Service to school – New and unique program implementation at any level, examination of school culture and change action, specific adaptation in relation to current practices; assistance to staff, Leadership in student organizations

Service to Community – Ecological actions, service to individual needy groups, church-related action or leadership, action plan presentations; assistance and leadership in community organization, creation and leadership of new community organization

Service to family – Action plan per specific family dilemma, Family improvement project, Closeness endeavor

Higher academic pursuits – Completion of AP courses(minimum 2), Connection and participation in collegiate organization or affiliated organization, participation and leadership in collegiate connected service organization

Civic pathways – Participation in any level of government, Shadowing and assisting any elected official, Creation of action group to affect change on any civic issue, Law enforcement activity, constitutional activity at any level

International investigations – Travel abroad, Electronic collaboration with students abroad, Action investigation of immigrants or related groups and assistance, Understanding of global issues and participation in Model UN

Journal Example:

October 3, 2012

Narrative: Today I was able to make some progress in phoning my congressman to ask how to submit a bill that would require that all schools run on wind power by the year 2015. I spoke to Senator Thune's secretary and he is actually going to call me tomorrow!! I had to ask the principal if I could take a cell phone call at 11:00. He said yes – so the project is on!!

Reflection: I am a little nervous to talk to Senator Thune. I want to make him understand how important it is for me and my classmates that we have alternative ways of generating power for our generation. I know he does not believe global warming is an issue, so I will not talk about that – I will just talk about the economy and how this can create jobs and help schools with heating and cooling issues. I am lucky Mr. Pociask and Mrs. Wallace gave me a lot of places to look for that information. This is pretty exciting, but I don't want to mess it up. What if this bill is actually taken to our legislature and becomes law? That would be very satisfying to me.