

LRHS Graduation Project



An Overview

POSITIVES OF THE GP

- Improves research techniques
- Teaches time management
- Stresses organization
- Encourages personal responsibility
- Develops interpersonal communication skills
- Enhances public speaking skills
- Builds confidence
- Utilizes “real world” employment skills
- Applies technology in a practical setting
- Ties student to community

Graduation Project (GP)

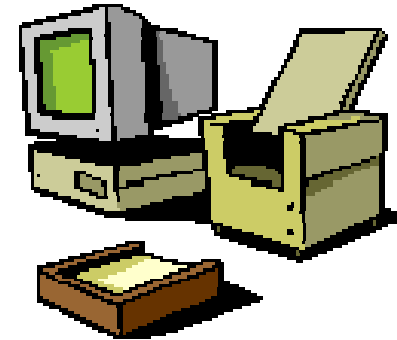
Paper

Product

Portfolio

Presentation

PAPER



- Inquiry based research paper (essential question)
- 5-7 pages
- Topic selection based on student interest
 - Begins in English class during junior year
- Guided by senior English teacher
- “Learning stretch” “The art of making great demands upon one’s abilities while gaining knowledge, comprehension, or mastery through experience or study.” Cabarrus County Project Graduation Handbook.

SAMPLE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How has the media impacted a young woman's body image?
- Why should children be exposed to the arts in elementary school?
- What is the best way to train for a 5K race? (Examine two training programs and determine which is best.)

PRODUCT

- Direct, logical extension of research topic
- Documented through photographic evidence
- Guided by a GP community mentor
- Visible application of knowledge
- Samples:
 - Performance
 - Experiment
 - Service opportunity
 - Teaching a class
 - Construction
 - Media



PRODUCT EXAMPLES

- How has the media impacted a young woman's body image?
 - Fashion show that demonstrates how to look good at any size
- Why should children be exposed to the arts in elementary school?
 - Art lesson centered around a character trait
- What is the best way to train for a 5K race?
 - Train for and participate in a 5K race

PORTFOLIO

- Binder documenting the entire process
 - Record keeping
 - Forms
 - Letters
 - Photographs
 - Logs
- Copy of final paper
- Outline of presentation
- Personal reflections



PRESENTATION

- Summarize all parts of GP for a panel of judges
- Will be evaluated on public sharing of the final product
 - Trifold
 - Product
 - Time limit 8-12 minutes
- Focus on research experience
- Analyze the entire process
- Include self-reflection
- Answer questions from panel of judges



GP ADVISOR

- Will be a LRHS faculty member
- Will be student's guide and counselor for the GP
- Will meet with student monthly during junior and senior years
- Will help student meet deadlines
- Will initially approve student's product idea
- Will initially grade student's completed product
- Will grade student's portfolio

GP COMMUNITY MENTOR

- Student should locate someone who is:
 - A non-LRHS staff member
 - A non-relative
 - At least 25 years old
 - An expert in topic
 - Willing to work with student for 15 hours
 - WCPSS approval to work as a volunteer *

POSSIBLE MENTOR SOURCES

- Career Center (Gwen Canada)
 - feeder schools
 - Business Alliance group
 - PTSA Yahoo link
- Junior League of Raleigh
- Delta Kappa Gamma
- NC Office of Environmental Education
 - www.eenorthcarolina.org/gradproject.html

SOURCES

- Arthur, Sally, et. al. WCPSS Graduation Project Implementation Guide: A Handbook for WCPSS Faculty and Administrators. ed. Sherri Merritt, PhD. WCPSS. August 2007.
- “Graduation Project.” Athens Drive High School. 2007. 19 Mar. 2008.
<<http://athensdrivehs.wcpss.net>>.
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