

LRHS GRADUATION PROJECT OVERVIEW



What is the Graduation Project?

- It is a North Carolina graduation and diploma requirement
- It is an individual assignment
- It has four parts—a paper, a product(project), a portfolio, and a presentation
- The Class of 2010 will be the first class to complete the GP

Positives of the GP

- Improves research techniques
- Teaches time management, organization, and personal responsibility
- Enhances public speaking skills and other interpersonal communication skills
- Builds confidence
- Utilizes “real world” employment skills

The GP Advisor

- Will be a LRHS classroom teacher or media specialist
- Will be your guide and counselor for the entire GP process
- Will meet with you monthly during your junior and senior years
- Will initially approve your product idea
- Will help you meet deadlines
- Will initially grade your completed product
- Will grade your portfolio

Selecting Your GP advisor

- **From April 29 through May 9**
 - Ask any teacher or media specialist to be your GP advisor
 - Your advisor does not have to be your former teacher
 - You will work with them for the next two years! Choose carefully!
- **IF YOU DO NOT SELECT AN ADVISOR BEFORE FRIDAY, MAY 9, AN ADVISOR WILL BE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO YOU ON MONDAY, MAY 12**

The GP product

- Is a physical, tangible project that the student chooses and creates
- Must relate directly to the research topic
- Will be guided by a GP Community Mentor that the student selects
- Will include pictures that the student takes throughout the entire process

Product Examples

1. **Research Question:** Does age, gender, or disability prevent one from learning a martial art as a means of self-defense?
Product: Student prepared a flyer for and publicized, planned, and taught a mother-daughter self-defense tae kwon do session at his gym. Student met with a mentor regularly, documented over 15 hours of work, photographed attendees during class learning self-defense methods and through a brief PowerPoint presentation demonstrated other self-defense moves.
2. **Research Question:** What can be done to reduce the effects of global warming?
Product: Student taught a K-1 class at a local elementary school about global warming. Student prepared a trifold poster with samples of polluting items, read the students a child's

library book on global warming, prepared a coloring sheet for students, and burned a CD of lesson plans and sources to share with other elementary schools. Student met with a mentor regularly, documented over 15 hours of work on the product, and made photographs of her work along the way as well as the K-1 class to which she presented her product.

The GP community mentor

- a non-relative, non-LRHS faculty member
- at least 25 years old and an expert in your research topic
- is willing to work with you for a minimum of 15 hrs.
- has WCPSS approval to work as a volunteer in the schools OR is willing to complete that process

The GP paper

- Is a topic based on student interest
- Is a research paper based on an essential question
- Will be guided by English teacher
- Must involve a “learning stretch” –the art of making great demands upon one’s abilities while gaining knowledge, comprehension, or mastery through experience or study.
- Will be 5-7 pages in length

The GP portfolio

- Is a binder documenting the entire process
- Contains forms, letters, photographs, logs (mentor, fieldwork, etc.)
- Includes a copy of the final paper
- Includes an outline of the presentation

The GP presentation

- Synthesizes all GP components in an oral presentation before a panel of judges
- Is a chance for the student to “shine and share” (Ross 4/14)
- Includes a trifold poster explanation of their research topic
- Displays the product
- Has a time limit 8-12 minutes
- Focuses on the student’s research experience and personal growth
- Includes a Question and Answer session with the judges

What important dates do students need to know?

- They will be introduced to GP skills in every grade level and in every subject area
- Faculty GP advisors will be selected/assigned at the end of sophomore year
- Students will submit their GP Proposal and GP mentor name for approval and verification in October of their junior year
- Students will meet regularly with their GP advisor and mentor to work on completion of their product during their junior year and summer before senior year
- Students will submit their completed product and current portfolio at the end of September of their senior year
- Students will write their research paper during the semester they are enrolled in 12th grade English
- First semester Presentation Day for all completed GPs in early December
- Students in second semester 12th grade English begin their paper
- Second semester Presentation Day for all completed GPs in early April

