Senior Projects

Completion of Senior Project is a graduation requirement at Rosemont High School, as well as at all of the other high schools in Sacramento City Unified School District. In order to get your Senior Project approved, **you must submit the three proposal forms (Proposal, Parent Permission, and Outside Mentor) and a typed Letter of Intent.** Proposals are due by 3:00 pm on Thursday, October 15th. Submit your forms to Ms. Siegert in E206, or turn them in to her box. You will only be allowed one change from your original project, so please decide carefully about what you would like to do.

Below are basic guidelines for Senior Projects:

- The project must be personally challenging. You cannot simply cook a meal or learn to strum a couple of chords on a guitar. Consider completing a project that involves community service, such as volunteering at a convalescent hospital or food bank, coaching youth sports, or organizing a fundraiser for the American Heart Association or other worthy foundations. Other successful project ideas include building/constructing something, teaching (more than three students), working at an after-school program, etc.
- The project must be independently completed. You cannot complete a project with other seniors, and if you are part of a group that is working on something (for example, a missionary trip to Mexico or Habitat for Humanity) there must be sufficient evidence of what you have completed on your own, without the assistance of other people.
- The project itself must take at least 15 hours. This time does not include researching/writing your paper or assembling your presentation or portfolio.
  - If you are in LEAD, your project must be community service-based and you need at least 20 hours.
- There must be evidence of you physically completing the project in the form of pictures or video, so keep track of everything you do from the time you are approved. Lost phones, crashed computers, or broken cameras are not excuses for lacking visual evidence.
- If you want to do a project that involves food, you must cater an event or create some type of fundraiser to go along with it. You also must show evidence of learning how to make the food. All food projects will be run by Mr. Singer (Chef Scott) to check for difficulty.
- All portions of Senior Project, which are listed below, must receive a passing grade.

**Presentation**

You will present your project to a panel of judges in December 2015, March 2016, or April/May 2016. Your presentation needs to be 8-10 minutes long, and the judges have a 5-minute question/answer session once you finish speaking. Additionally, your presentation MUST be in the form of a PPT or Prezi. The rubric for the presentation can be found on the school website, and your presentation score is doubled when determining your overall grade. The judges are looking for an introduction, body, and conclusion to your presentation (where you showcase/demo your product), as well as an explanation of your research paper and how it connects to your topic. You also need to include your personal reflections on your experience with Senior Project (successes, obstacles, achievements, what you learned, how it was a stretch, etc.) Be sure to practice your speech ahead of time so that you’re familiar enough with it that you’re not reading straight off of your note cards. In addition to grading the content of your speech, the judges are also scoring your presentation skills. You are also expected to dress professionally for your presentation.
Product
Your product is a part of your presentation; it is the physical evidence you show of what you learned/created. Your product is technically the proof of the 15 hours minimum that you have spent on your Senior Project (researching for your paper, organizing your speech, and completing your portfolio do not count towards the time limit). Your product must be in the form of a Power Point; you can also add things such as a performance (songs on the guitar, a specific dance, along with pictures/video of your process), a video (chronicling your time spent and experience working on your product), picture boards (chronicling your time spent and experience working on your product), or something physical that you have actually created (a model house, art pieces, furniture, etc., along with pictures/video of your process). Power Point presentations that combine your speaking notes and pictures of your product are acceptable, but your presentation cannot simply be a PPT of text slides.

Research Paper
This element of your Senior Project needs to be included in your portfolio, but it is counted as a separate portion, and is a part of your English 12 grade. If you do not pass the research paper, you cannot pass the first semester of English 12, which means you will not be on track to graduate. Your paper needs to be 6 pages minimum (MLA format, Times New Roman 12-point font, typed and double-spaced, including Works Cited page), and you must use at least five reputable, valid sources in your paper (Wikipedia does not count as a source). If you’re struggling with the page limit, break up the paper in the same way as the presentation; you need an introduction (with thesis statement), body, and conclusion. You could write ¼ page of introduction to your topic, which would include your thesis, and you could also write ¼ page of concluding thoughts (maybe a solution/recommendation, speculation, a question, an anecdote, etc.). That leaves 3 ½-4 body pages, which can be easily broken up to fit your topic. Remember that this is a RESEARCH paper, not a reflection; therefore, you cannot use any 1st person references in your paper (I, me, in my opinion, etc.)

Portfolio
The portfolio is where all of your materials and paperwork related to your senior project, including a letter of introduction to the judges, are showcased. You should use a binder to keep track of everything that you do with Senior Project, starting from the time you’re approved, and then that as the basis of your final portfolio. Listed below are the items you need to have in your portfolio, which is graded on its completeness and presentation.

- Table Of Contents
- Letter of Introduction to Judges (formal business letter style—tell the judges about you)
- Senior Project Approval Forms
  - Senior Project Proposal Form
  - Parent Permission Form
  - Outside Mentor Form
  - Letter of Intent
- Research Paper
- Time Logs (KEEP TRACK OF ALL OF THE TIME THAT YOU SPEND; these should be typed)
- Outside Mentor Evaluation Form
- Surveys, Questionnaires, Interviews (if applicable)
- Letters/Emails of correspondence (if applicable)
- Receipts/Schedules (if applicable)
- Research Notes/Rough Drafts (if applicable)
Senior Project Proposal

Student__________________________English Teacher________________Date_______

PRODUCT

▪ What is your Senior Project? What is the physical product you will create to show evidence of your work to the judges? Be specific.

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

▪ What steps will you take to complete this product and how will you keep track of your process?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

PAPER

▪ What are you researching for your paper? Be as specific as possible.

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

PROJECT

▪ How is this project a stretch for you? Simply stating that you’ve never done something before is not an acceptable answer. What challenges will you face?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

▪ When the project is completed, what do you think you will you have learned?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

APPROVAL Signature_________________________________Date_______________________
Parent Permission Form

Student’s Name__________________________________________________________

Parent’s Name____________________________________________________________

Address__________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Parent’s Phone: Home___________________________ Work_____________________

As a parent/guardian of _____________________________________, a senior at Rosemont High School, I am aware that my son/daughter must pass all portions of the Senior Project in order to graduate in June 2016.

For the project, my son/daughter has chosen to:_________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

He/she has my permission to complete this project, and I agree to release Rosemont High School, the Sacramento City Unified School District, and its employees from all claims arising from financial obligation incurred, or damage, injury, or accident suffered while my son/daughter participates in the project that he/she has chosen.

I DO______ DO NOT______ (check one) authorize my son/daughter to meet his/her Outside Mentor off-campus for the purpose of working on Senior Project.

Parent/Guardian Signature:________________________________________________

Student Signature_________________________________________________________

Date:___________________________________________________________________
Outside Mentor Agreement Form

Student’s Name___________________________________________________________

Mentor’s Name___________________________________________________________

Mentor’s Address_________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Mentor’s Phone: Home________________________Work________________________

Relationship to Student____________________________________________________

In the space given, please briefly describe why you are qualified to mentor the student in
his/her chosen project:_____________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

I, the undersigned, have met with the above named student and have discussed his/her
plans for the Senior Project at Rosemont High School. I acknowledge that the student will
work on his/her project over the course of the school year and that I will offer assistance in
completing the project phase of Rosemont High School’s Senior Project during that time. I
understand that I will be a resource and consultant for the student and will be asked to
verify the student’s progress and hours spent. I also understand that Senior Project is the
sole responsibility of the student and that I am not to complete the project for the student. I
understand that I will work with the student only by phone or on site at Rosemont High
School unless given express written permission by the parents of the student to meet off
campus.

Signature _______________________________________________________________

Date_______________________________________________________________
[Current Date]

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[Your City], CA [Your Zip]

Ms. Siegert
Rosemont High School
Sacramento, CA 95827

Dear Ms. Siegert:

[Paragraph 1] Describe the general area of interest (such as art, communications, social problems, physical fitness, automotive). Explain why you chose this area. Explain in detail what you already know or have done in this area (your experience/knowledge). Identify what you hope to learn or accomplish by doing this project.

[Paragraph 2] Describe your project, giving very specific details – what your project will be, what you will actually do, who and/or what will be involved, possible mentor to help you, estimated cost of project, estimated time required to complete project, and what will you consider to be a completed project. Explain clearly how this project will stretch you beyond current knowledge and/or current skills. [Remember that the Senior Project is designed to stretch your limits and skills by exploring a new area or skill or by developing and extending a skill beyond your current skill level; it is not an opportunity to do again something which you already know or have done.

[Paragraph 3] What specifically will you need to research (find out) and learn in order to be able to do your project? Who and what do you plan to use for resources?

[Paragraph 4] Explain what plagiarism is and the consequences of plagiarizing or falsifying any information, including the fact that this would result in failing the Senior Project, a graduation requirement. Conclude with a clear statement affirming that you will not plagiarize or falsify any information in your research, your research narrative, or in your project.

Sincerely,

[Your Signature]

[Your Name Typed]
May 15, 2015

Joe Student
1234 Rosemont Way
Sacramento, CA. 95827

Ms. Siegert
Rosemont High School
Sacramento, CA. 95827

Dear Ms. Siegert:

For my Senior Project, I have chosen to teach math in an elementary school classroom. Ever since I was young, I have always been good at math. Last year, I was a TA for a math teacher, and I liked helping students with their work because they seemed to understand when I explained it to them. By choosing this focus for my Senior Project, I hope to learn whether or not I could be a teacher, which is the career that I have been considering.

I plan on teaching at Sequoia Elementary School in Mr. Teacher’s 4th grade classroom. In November and December, I will be observing his class two times a month for one hour. In January, I will start to volunteer after school as a tutor once a week for an hour, and in March, I will teach three classes by myself. Mr. Teacher will be helping me put together lesson plans and other activities, so it should not cost me any money. When I present my Senior Project, I will show samples of the students’ work, and I will show what they learned by providing a pre and a post test of the material I taught. Also, I am going to get permission to record myself teaching, and permission to take pictures of the students; I will show all of these to the panel. This is a stretch for me because I have never taught an entire class of students before, and learning how to teach is very difficult.

In order to complete my Senior Project, I need to learn more about the specific content I want to teach, and I also need to learn strategies that will help me teach this content. I have already spoken with the teacher and principal at Sequoia to set up my times for everything, but I will need to keep track of everything that I do each day in my time logs. Additionally, I’m going to talk with my current math teacher to start to get ideas about how to teach Math; I have already done some research online, and I found teaching tools and sample lesson plans.

Plagiarism is stealing someone else’s ideas or words and presenting them as your own. I understand that if I plagiarize, I will fail Senior Project, which means I will not graduate. Therefore, I will not plagiarize any portion of my Senior Project.

Sincerely,
Joe Student
Joe Student