

★ SENIOR PROJECT AP Lit ★

"It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little"

- Sydney Smith

FOCUS QUESTION: What are the social responsibilities of educated people?

EXPLANATION: As you come to the end of twelve years of public education, it is time for you to think of not only what the next steps are, but also where you see yourself in the world. It is easy for us to say that our responsibilities are to get a job, pay our bills, and have a roof over our heads; but the harder answers to this question come when we take the focus off ourselves and look at the world around us.

You will spend the entire year doing just that, reading books from countries that are seemingly far different than your own; investigating areas of social injustice; and holding a mirror to yourself to ask where you come from, what you truly believe, and what that all means to you.

From here, we are asking you to decide what you will do with that knowledge. Find focus in this question, decide on **one** area in which you will concentrate your studies; just be sure that this area is interesting to you. If you don't care about climate change, don't put your focus into how to prevent and reverse its effects because you think there is a lot of information out there. If you do that, trust us, you will be miserable over your last year of high school. The question is simple: what matters to you?

As you investigate and research your area of study, keep in mind the following cornerstones that we want you to investigate and attempt:

- What is the issue? How did it come to be? What is its history?
- How has it changed over time? What have people attempted to do? What were the results of those attempts? Can those attempts be seen as successes, failures, or both? Why?
- What have you done in this field? We want to see some level of personal initiative here. If you care this much about an issue, we want to see the effort you've put into this to make it better.
- What **SHOULD** be done? This proposal does not need to completely solve all problems (though we don't want to deter your genius), but rather, should discuss ways that the issue at hand could be improved.

Initiative Expectations

“An act or strategy intended to resolve a difficulty or improve a situation; a fresh approach to something.”

- Approximately 15-20 hours of planning and executing initiative throughout the year
- Evidence of initiative such as videos, pictures, notes from supervisor, etc.

Statement of Purpose

Formal introduction of your intended project.

- What is the issue?
- Why did you choose the topic?
- Interview proposal?
- What are your ideas for your personal initiative?

Evidence of Research: Source and Notecards

Research process using Noodle Tools. Students will research and take notes through the Noodle Tools program.

- Several sources (both primary and secondary), cited correctly
- Notecards have quote, paraphrase, or summary
- Notecards have analysis of quote, paraphrase or summary
- Notecards are organized by topic

Outline

Logical organization of ideas

- Background and history of issue
- Solutions: successes and failures

Interview (this should be conducted in a face-to-face meeting)

- Obtain teacher approval for interview candidate
- Interview will be a cited source in research paper
- Follow up thank you note

Research Paper

- CP1: 5-7, CP2: 8-10, Honors/ **AP: 10-12 pages**
- Correct MLA format of both in text citations and Works Cited page
- Follows outline organization of ideas
- Includes an analysis of changes
- Discussion of current state of issue
- Addresses counterclaim

Reflection Paper

- 5 pages
- Discuss your personal initiative. The how and why you came to this solution. Use research to support your decision.
- Reflect on the success of the initiative and your ideas for global proposals. Include the how and why you came to those conclusions.
- Include a works cited page in correct MLA format

Final Exposition

Exposition is the act of expounding, setting forth or explaining. Your final presentation is just that: you presenting your project in a formal manner. The presentation is a required component of the project and the final examination. Failure to present results in an incomplete for the semester.

- 15 minute mandatory presentation
- Visual aid including evidence of initiative
- Engage your audience
- Use of logical, emotional, and ethical appeals
- Formal purpose and appearance
- Citations required in proper MLA format

PRODUCT DUE DATES

First Quarter

Due Date (Week of)	Assignment
10/2	Statement of Purpose

Second Quarter

Due Date (Week of)	Assignment
11/26	Research Essay Outline
12/17	Research Essay due

Third Quarter

Due Date (Week of)	Assignment
2/4	Initiative Action Plan

Fourth Quarter

Due Date (Week of)	Assignment
5/7	Reflection Paper
5/14	Exposition

