

Law and Social Justice

Senior Project Overview

Choosing Your Topic

- It is important that you choose a strong topic for Senior Project in order to be successful. Your topic should be:
 - o An issue that affects people in our community
 - o A topic with enough scholarly books/articles available for you to use in your research
 - o Something you are willing to put a lot of your personal time into, including the possibility of community service

Components of Senior Project

There are four main components of senior project. Each of them needs to be completed in order for you to fulfill the graduation requirement. You can think of them as the “Four Ps.”

Paper: You must write an academic research paper in MLA format that is at least six full pages in length. The writing must include proper citations of the research you have done, as well as a Works Cited list.

Project: This is your chance to choose a project related to your topic and research paper. Many people choose to do community service projects, such as volunteering or a public service campaign. Significant time needs to be spent outside of class on this component.

Portfolio: The portfolio is where you document the different stages of your project. Your portfolio needs to include physical evidence of the research you conducted as well as evidence of the completion of the “project” component of Senior Project. A strong portfolio will include multiple drafts of the research paper, annotated articles, notes, photographs/images related to the project, a log of your hours and a reflection paper.

Presentation: You will need to present your senior project in front of an audience of your peers and other teachers. Strong presentations engage the audience through a clear discussion of the content of your project as well as a reflection of your journey towards completing the project.

Things to Keep in Mind

- You do not have to do this all alone. You need to find a teacher or other adult to be your mentor. They will help you with the different steps of the project and will sign off on different steps as you complete them.
- Start early and keep up with your deadlines. Most components of Senior Project should be completed during the 3rd Quarter. Late assignments will affect your overall grade.
- From the beginning, document everything. Take pictures, keep logs of the time spent on your project, and keep all your papers organized in a portfolio.

- For those of you who participate in an ongoing internship or community project, those hours *may* be considered as part of the “project” component upon approval.