

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Senior Project

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- **How does the Senior Project affect the student's English class?**
 - Assignments leading up to the research paper and oral presentation components are figured into the classroom grade (rough drafts, due dates for submission of Letter of Intent, the poster, the research paper deadlines, etc.). The research paper is also figured into the English grade.
 - The scores the students receive on the Oral Board and physical aspect of the project will not affect the classroom grade.

- **What if a student is denied his topic of choice?**
 - For reasons discussed within the research paper area, some topics may be rejected. If a student feels strongly about pursuing the matter, he/she may file a letter requesting an appeal to the initial decision. The process and protocol for an appeal is discussed on the Advisory Board page.
 - A note: Most of the time when a student feels his/her topic has been denied, this is really untrue. What has most likely happened is that the thesis (that is, the focus of the paper) must be adjusted to be more than an informational paper. Most students are requested to take a position defending a belief or a thought. Their paper may show a cause and effect relationship. Of course, every student's paper will have informational material in it. This kind of material is needed as a basis for any paper. Always keep in mind that the goal is for the student to make whatever they are doing a stretch.

- **What if a student changes his/her mind regarding the topic of the research paper or the idea of the physical project?**
 - They may resubmit a Letter of Intent with the original to the Advisory Board.

- **What happens if the research paper is lost?**
 - It is the responsibility of every student to keep duplicates of every document as a backup in case the unexpected happens. If a 1040 tax form was lost in the mail, the IRS would expect the taxpayer to have a backup of forms and information.

- **What happens if a student receives a score on the research paper/oral board below the minimum required level? What happens if a student does not meet the time restrictions on the oral board presentation?**
 - Not all students will "get it right" the first time. This is true of the workplace. In either situation, chances are given to make corrections and try again. As long as the student puts forth a good faith effort at making corrections, he/she will have the opportunity to make those corrections (i.e. rewrites for the papers, redos for the oral presentation)

- **What is the connection between the research paper and the physical project?**
 - There has to be a thread of a connection. A paper on the validity of the World Wrestling Federation could have a physical project accompanying it that has some tie to athletics, entertainment, muscle enhancers, scams, etc.

- **How does a student find a mentor?**
 - Some students take it upon themselves to go through the phonebook to find a local expert in the field they are pursuing. Others will ask teachers, parents, or relatives to be a mentor. Whatever the case, the student must be very specific about what he is requesting of the individual, especially in terms of time. While most adults would be

honored to have a student as an apprentice, others do not wish to make the time available for such an endeavor.

- **Are seniors required to show up on Fair Night to display their physical project?**
 - Yes. The student knows six or more months in advance about the date of the fair and should have no difficulty having time off from work. Obviously, there might be special circumstances (family hardship) that may warrant an exception to the rule.
 - Students involved in extracurricular activities are an exception to the rule. The extra-curricular events were scheduled years in advance.

- **What has been the rate of success regarding the Senior Project?**
 - Every student who has made a good faith effort with the Senior Project has succeeded.

- **Do students receive a credit toward graduation once their Senior Project is approved on all three levels (research paper, oral report, physical project)?**
 - Yes