

GALT HIGH SCHOOL

An Introduction to the Senior Project

Purpose:

The overall purpose of this assignment is to give the students a complex task to showcase their knowledge and talents while evaluating the following skills obtained at Galt High School: research methods, writing process, problem solving skills, and organization of an oral presentation.

Overview:

Students will choose a topic focusing on a career interest or social issue. They will then conduct research on their chosen topic and produce a ten (10) page research paper. In addition, students will spend a minimum 5 hours on outside work. Finally, students will make a PowerPoint presentation that evaluates and combines the research information and outside activity to a panel of teachers. This presentation will demonstrate the student's oral communication skills and computer skills. These three aspects (paper, activity, presentation) of the Senior Project will be graded separately, but they should not be considered independent assignments. They all relate to the student's chosen career or social issue topic and must be completed to receive credit for the Senior Project.

The Research Paper:

The paper will be developed over the course of the second semester. The research will be done in a step-by-step process, each having a specific due date and point value.

The Activity:

The outside-of-class activity's purpose is to expose the student to a hands-on experience of the selected career or social issue. The student is to gain new knowledge that may not be possible through direct reading. The student is required to spend a minimum of five (5) hours on an outside class activity. Those hours **must** be spent job shadowing a professional, or building/designing/creating a product. The teacher approval form is considered a **contract** which includes a parent signature approving the student's selected activity.

The PowerPoint Presentation:

A 10-minute PowerPoint presentation, followed by a 5- minute question and answer session, will conclude the project. This oral presentation will include an overview of the research paper (not just reading it); documentation of the activity and or a demonstration of a skill acquired through this process. The student must also include his or her personal reflection about the knowledge gained through the career or social issue choice.

Grading:

Every student is required to get a passing score of a 3 on a six point rubric (see page 12), which equates to a D (60%) or higher on the senior project in order to receive a passing grade in 2nd semester English 12, in order to be eligible to receive a diploma as approved by the Galt High School Board. Seniors must also complete all course curriculum or assignments for English 12 to be eligible to graduate. The paper, activity, and presentation **ALL** must be completed. Every step is required for the research paper and must be completed. If all steps are not met, the paper will not be read and will automatically be given the grade of "F". Seniors must pass both semesters of Senior English to graduate.

PLAGIARISM

The American Heritage Dictionary defines plagiarism as using and passing off as one's own (the ideas or writings of another). Plagiarism refers to a form of cheating. To use another person's ideas or expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source is to plagiarize (Gibaldi 4th edition 27).

“Simply stated, Plagiarism is the taking of other's thoughts or words without due acknowledgement. This definition applies to both printed and unpublished material. That is, students must acknowledge, through appropriate forms of documentation, any borrowed ideas or phrases, and all direct quotations if more than four words. They also must not submit work that has been written, in part or whole.”

-UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct

GALT HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The staff at Galt High School expects the highest standards of honesty and fairness from all students. To promote these ideas of education, responsibility and self-discipline are essential. Therefore, to protect everyone's right to a fair and meaningful education, this ACADEMIC CODE OF HONESTY has been adopted:

- A student who copies an assignment from another student shall receive a zero for that assignment, and the student who allows an assignment to be copied shall also receive a zero.
 - A student who commits plagiarism on an assignment shall receive a zero for that assignment.
 - A student who is apprehended for taking, without permission, another student's written assignment or project for personal use or academic credit shall receive a zero for that assignment and will be further disciplined under the provisions for theft in the student discipline policy.
 - A student who submits work entirely or in part completed by another person (Examples include, but are not limited to: parent, another student, sibling, etc.) shall receive a zero for that assignment.
 -
- A. A student enrolled in the course in which the infraction occurred shall be immediately dismissed from that course with loss of credits and a grade of “F” for the semester in which the infraction takes place. The student may be suspended for up to five days for attempting to alter state documents. Also, the infraction may affect any honor or awards the student may receive. This will be at the discretion of the committee(s) in charge of the awards.
- B. A student not enrolled in a course, however, who is involved in such an infraction, shall be disciplined in accordance with student discipline policy.

SENIOR PROJECT CHECK LIST

Directions:

Each step must be completed and submitted to the teacher by the assignment due date. A student **can not** turn in the next assigned step until the prior step is turned into the teacher. Any late work not turned in *after* the due date will earn only **one point**. Late steps must be completed first, before receiving permission to move on to the next step. **No late Final Research Papers will be accepted.**

DUE DATE	SENIOR PROJECT STEPS	POINTS
Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011	Senior Project Kick-Off Senior English Faculty members officially “open” the Senior Project Season by reviewing the Senior Project Packet in class.	
Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011	Senior Project Parent Night A detailed Q & A Session whereby the rules and guidelines of the project are discussed and reviewed.	
Week of Jan. 24th, 2011	Topic and Thesis Selection: Parent Approval Form: Parent/Guardian read & sign Approval Form. See packet for help in writing your thesis. <u>The topic can only be changed with teacher’s approval.</u>	
Week of Feb. 7th , 2011	Turn in research for 1) History of Profession, 2) Description of Social Issue: bring sources, notes & updated Works Cited page to class. Turn in rough draft for this section (typed <u>in MLA form with in-text citations</u>).	
Week of Feb. 15th, 2011	Turn in research for 1) Influential Person, 2) Historical Overview: bring sources, notes& updated Works Cited page to class. Turn in rough draft for this section (typed <u>in MLA form with in-text citations</u>).	
Week of Feb. 23rd, 2011	Turn in Research for 1) Job Description, 2) Current Societal Movement: bring sources, notes & updated Works Cited page to class. Turn in rough draft for this section (typed <u>in MLA form with in-text citations</u>).	
Week of Feb.28th , 2011	Turn in Research for 1) Training and Education, 2) Impacts of Envisioned Change: bring sources, notes & updated Works Cited page to class. Turn in rough draft for this section (typed <u>in MLA form with in-text citations</u>).	
Week of March 7 2011	Turn in research for 1) Advancement Opportunities and Outlook, 2) Likelihood of Change: bring sources, notes& updated Works Cited page to class. Turn in rough draft for this section (typed <u>in MLA form with in-text citations. Minimum of one interview completed by this date.</u>	

<p>Week of, March 16th, 2011</p>	<p>Contracts for interviews or outside activities due: <i>Job Shadow/Interview/Product information.</i></p>	
<p>Week of March 28th, 2011 (Must be turned in by Friday, April 1st - no exceptions)</p>	<p>Final Draft (NOTE- Highest point value): Select an <i>interesting title</i>. <i>Introduction</i> which includes the thesis, a <i>body</i> which includes all the rough drafts completed thus far with transitions, and a <i>conclusion</i> which restates the thesis and includes personal reflection. <u>Must include 12 in-text citations and a typed Work Cited Page.</u> Must be submitted to www.turnitin.com along with paper copy to teacher. Papers will be returned by teacher the week of April 26th, 2011 for final revisions. **AP Papers will be returned by teacher on April 15th, 2011 for final revisions. **Paper must be submitted to Turnitin.com**</p>	
<p>Thursday, May 5th, 2011</p>	<p>Revised Final Draft Due: Apply recommendations/corrections, and include the original final draft with the teacher's comments. <u>Use Checklist to ensure that your paper will pass</u> and that you haven't committed any fatal errors. **AP English 12 Students' Refined Copy will be due Wednesday, April 27th, 2011.</p>	
<p>Week of May 9th, 2011</p>	<p>PowerPoint Presentations Due. **AP English 12 Students' final PowerPoint Presentations Due May 16th, 2011.</p>	
<p>Monday, May 16, 2011</p>	<p>Presentation Advertising Poster: Make sure your advertisement your presentation is turned in and will then be posted in your assigned classroom by the end of the school day on May 17, 2011.</p>	
<p>Wednesday, May 18, 2011</p>	<p>Presentation: 1pm to 3:15 PM in various classrooms on campus. All rooms are assigned one week prior. Students will execute their 10-minute speech and 5-minute Q & A session.</p>	

POSSIBLE SENIOR PROJECT CAREER CHOICES

Accounting & Finance
Advertising & Public Relations
Arts & Entertainment
Banking & Mortgage Industry
Business
Clerical & Administrative
Construction & Facility Maintenance
Education
Engineering
Architecture
Government
Military
Healthcare
Hospitality & Travel
Insurance
Internet & News Media
Law Enforcement & Security
Law
Marketing
Medicine
Real Estate
Restaurant & Food Service
Technology
Telecommunications
Transportation
Etc.

POSSIBLE SENIOR PROJECT SOCIAL ISSUE CHOICES

Alternative Transportation / Automobiles / Fuels
Capital Punishment
Child Welfare
Deterioration of Bill of Rights
Deterioration of Sportsmanship
Drug Usage
Educational Issues
Gang Violence
Global Warming
Gun Control
Hate Crimes
Healthcare Coverage
Immigration
Racial Profiling
Same Sex Marriage
Etc.

GALT HIGH SCHOOL

Parent Approval Form & Topic and Thesis Selection

TOPIC:

The topic must be a possible career choice or social issue that meets the following criteria:

- can meet the five (5) hour outside activity requirement
- can meet the interview requirement that consists of one (1) expert

THESIS STATEMENT:

See the examples below. Remember, the paper's purpose is to explain a career or a social issue.

TOPIC for Career(s)

THESIS

Civil Engineering

Civil engineers influence the appearance of our physical structures and ensure public safety through safe building techniques.

Preschool Teacher

Preschool teachers care for toddlers, teaching them social skills and academics to help them succeed in primary education.

Sports Therapy

Sports therapists help athletes recover from injuries allowing them to return to play in physical activities.

TOPIC for Social Issue(s) or Service Learning Project

THESIS

Global Warming

The issue of global warming is likely to become an increasing factor in the politics and policies of the 21st Century.

Topic and Thesis Parent Approval Form

Directions: Fill in the areas below and review with your parent/guardian. Have your parent/guardian review the Senior Project Packet, read your thesis, and sign below. Return to the teacher as **Step One**.

Topic: _____

Thesis: _____

I have reviewed _____'s Senior Project Packet.
I understand that my child must earn a passing grade on the Project in order to graduate.
Plagiarism will result in an **automatic fail**. (Please see page 2 of packet)

Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Organization and Criteria

Note that the organization below applies to the body of your finished paper only. This is a guideline to help you focus information for your research. The final essay will contain both introductory and concluding paragraphs.

Criteria for the Career Research Paper

- I. History of Profession
 - A. Early Development of Profession
 - B. 21st Century Development
- II. Influence of Person (Separate from interviews or job shadows)
 - A. Biographical sketch of professional life
 - B. Contributions to field
- III. Defining the Profession
 - A. Duties and Responsibilities
 - B. Working Conditions
 - C. Difficulties of Profession
 - D. Salary and Benefits
- IV. Training and Education
 - A. Post-Secondary Training and Education Required
 - B. Post-Secondary Education I plan to pursue
- V. Advancement Opportunities and Outlook for Employment
 - A. Promotion within industry
 - B. Projected job growth
 - C. Future trends that could affect this profession

Criteria for the Social Issues Research Paper

- I. Description of Social Issue
 - A. Statement of problem
 - B. Importance of issue to society
- II. Historical Overview
 - A. Historical examples of problem
 - B. Evolution of social change
 - C. Influential pioneers of parallel issue
- III. Current Societal Movements
 - A. Influential Leaders
 - B. Current state of the issue
- IV. Impacts of Envisioned Change
 - A. Social
 1. Pro
 2. Con
 - B. Economic
 1. Pro
 2. Con
 - C. Political
 1. Pro
 2. Con
- V. Likelihood of Change
 - A. Public Opinion
 - B. Political Action

THE RESEARCH PAPER

A. Length

- 3,000 Words of Typed Text
- Times New Roman
- 12 Point Font

B. Sources

- Research and Cite at least Fifteen (15) sources
- Maximum of Nine (9) Direct Quotes including One (1) long quote (3+ lines)
- **No Encyclopedias, Wikipedia, or Blogs**
- You are **REQUIRED TO USE**:
 - Eight (8) sources originally found in print
- **Research must include:**
 - One (1) book
 - One (1) newspaper, magazine, or journal
 - Article (print or electronic)
 - One (1) government publication
 - Conduct one (1) interview (Max. 3)

C. Format

- **MLA Format**
- 12 Point Times New Roman, including Title of Paper
- Entire research paper is doubled space.
- Last name and page number is on every page in the upper right hand corner (Includes first page and Work Cited Page)
- Correct MLA Format heading
- Creative title is placed under the heading and in center of page
- **One Inch** margins bottom and side of paper. $\frac{1}{2}$ " **top margin** above page number.
- **White** 8 ½ by 11 inch paper
- **No fancy folders-** a simple staple in the corner makes it easier to read

D. Final Draft

- Complete and Typed : 3,000 words
- Papers **MUST** be submitted to www.turnitin.com

E. Revised Final Draft

- Complete and Typed : 3,000 words
- **No Late or Short Papers Are Accepted.**

RESEARCH PAPER CHECK-OFF LIST

Directions:

In order for the research paper to be accepted on the due date, the entire check list must be free of any “No” checks. Any paper receiving a check in the “no” column will receive an automatic **F** for the **entire Senior Project**.

Requirements for Paper to be Accepted	Yes	No
3,000 words typed text in black ink.		
Times New Roman 12 point font required.		
Entire paper is double spaced including heading and Works Cited page.		
Works Cited is arranged in alphabetical order		
15 Sources in Works Cited		
15 parenthetical references minimum.		
15 parenthetical references match 15 sources correctly.		
Maximum of nine (9) Direct Quotes including (1) Long Quote (3+ lines)		
Last name and page number is on upper right hand corner of every page.		
MLA format for entire paper: 1 inch margins on the bottom and sides, 1/2' above name and page #;		
White 8 ½ x 11 inch paper is used.		
First page contains correct page number, MLA heading, centered title		
Paper is turned in on final due date, regardless of absence. Final Due Date: Thursday, 5 May 2011		

SIX POINT RUBRIC FOR THE SENIOR PROJECT

- 6 An outstanding research paper with all or most of these characteristics:**
Surpasses 3,000 words
Thesis clearly introduced in the opening paragraph
Clear and complete organization that is appropriate to the intended audience
No errors in parenthetical, works cited and MLA format
Accurate, vivid word choice
Correct use of punctuation, spelling and capitalization
Contains a variety of sources that contribute to the development of the thesis
- 5 An excellent research paper with all or most of these characteristics:**
Meets or exceeds 3,000 words
A clear thesis which addresses the subject in the opening paragraph
Complete organization that is appropriate to the intended audience
Few errors in parenthetical, works cited and MLA format
Accurate word choice
Few errors in punctuation, spelling and capitalization
Contains a variety of sources that contribute to the development of the thesis
- 4 A very good research paper with all or most of these characteristics:**
Meets the required 3,000 word length
A good thesis which may not be completely clear throughout most of the paper
Good organization that is adequate to the intended audience
Some errors in parenthetical, works cited and MLA format
Sufficient word choice
Some errors in punctuation, spelling and capitalization
Sufficient sources that contribute to the development of the thesis
- 3 This is an adequate research paper with all or most of these characteristics:**
Meets the required 3,000 word length
A thesis that is introduced which may not be completely clear throughout the paper
Organization which is not completely clear to the intended audience
Some or many errors in parenthetical, works cited and MLA format
Satisfactory word choice
Some or many errors in punctuation, spelling and capitalization
Adequate sources that contribute to the development of the thesis
- 2 An inadequate research paper with all or most of these characteristics:**
Fails to meet the required 3,000 words
A thesis which is not clearly introduced in the opening paragraph
Organization which is unclear to the intended audience
Serious errors in parenthetical, works cited and MLA format
Unsatisfactory word choice
Many errors in punctuation, spelling and capitalization
Barely adequate sources that contribute to the development of the thesis
- 1 This is totally inadequate research paper with most of these characteristics:**
Fails to meet the required 3,000 words
Some indication of a thesis in the opening paragraph
No understandable organization and not clear to the intended audience
Inadequate paraphrasing and/or plagiarism
Elementary word choice
Many serious errors in parenthetical, works cited and MLA format
Many serious errors in punctuation, spelling and capitalization
Inadequate sources that contribute to the development of the thesis

GALT HIGH SCHOOL

Senior Project Contract

Job Shadow

To Whom It May Concern:

This Senior Project Contract will serve as proof that the student named below has, through this job-shadow, fulfilled five (5) hours of supervised on-the-job-training or observation with a working professional in the student's chosen career / social path. Please document student's time below.

Student Name: _____

Student's Teacher: _____

Date of Job Shadow: _____

Hours On site: From _____ to _____

Name of Supervisor: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Supervisor Contact (phone or e-mail): _____

Name of Business: _____

Parent Signature: _____

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your student's teacher directly at the high school by either phone or email.

They are: Phillip Arieas at parieas@ghsd.k12.ca.us, or 209.745.3081 vm3118

Paula Bauer at pbauer@ghsd.k12.ca.us, or 209.745.3081 vm3114

Mirka Dennaoui at mdennaoui@ghsd.k12.ca.us, or 209.745.3081 vm3106

Angela Schroeder at aschroeder@ghsd.k12.ca.us, or 209.745.3081 vs3115

Tom Veatch at tveatch@ghsd.k12.ca.us, or 209.745.3081 vm3085

Michele Wood at mwood@ghsd.k12.ca.us, or 209.745.3081 vm3100

GALT HIGH SCHOOL

Senior Project Contract

Interview

To Whom It May Concern:

This Senior Project Contract will serve as proof that the student named below has conducted an interview with a professional working in the student's chosen career / social path. The interview must take at least 15 minutes, and include meaningful questions related to the chosen career / social path.

Please fill out the information below as verification. It may be necessary for our staff to make direct contact with you to verify those records.

Student Name: _____

Student's Teacher: _____

Date of Interview: _____

Time of Interview: From _____ to _____

Name of Interviewee: _____

Interviewee Signature: _____

Interviewee Contact (phone or e-mail): _____

Name of Business/Organization: _____

Parent Signature: _____

If you have any questions please feel free to contact your student's teacher directly at the high school by either phone or email.

They are: Phillip Arieas at parieas@ghsd.k12.ca.us, or 209.745.3081 vm3118

Paula Bauer at pbauer@ghsd.k12.ca.us, or 209.745.3081 vm3114

Mirka Dennaoui at mdennaoui@ghsd.k12.ca.us, or 209.745.3081 vm3106

Angela Schroeder at aschroeder@ghsd.k12.ca.us, or 209.745.3081 vs3115

Tom Veatch at tveatch@ghsd.k12.ca.us, or 209.745.3081 vm3085

Michele Wood at mwood@ghsd.k12.ca.us, or 209.745.3081 vm3100

PRODUCT/ACTIVITY CONTRACT

Directions: Fill in all the areas and turn in to the teacher for approval.

Aim of the Activity

I plan to develop the following skills or new knowledge: _____

OR

Physical Product

I will physically produce _____
_____ to show the new knowledge or skills gained.

Plan:

Break the activity / completion of physical product into several steps. Use the outline below as a start and add as many steps as you need on separate paper. Estimate how long each step will take to complete (number of hours), and make a note of any supplies and/or professional help you used to complete the activity/physical project.

BE DETAILED IN THE DESCRIPTIONS.

Step 1: _____

Time Required: _____

Date Completed: _____

Supplies or People Involved: _____

Step 2: _____

Time Required: _____

Date Completed: _____

Supplies or People Involved: _____

Step 3: _____

Time Required: _____

Date Completed: _____

Supplies or People Involved: _____

Connection and Reflection: In 3-4 sentences, explain how the final product reflects or demonstrates your new knowledge.

Note Problems and Changes: Record any problems and changes that occurred during the completion of the physical product. This will be great information to share during the presentation:

Parent Signature: _____

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

When you start working on the presentation, you should have completed the research paper and the activity hours.

There are three main purposes to the presentation. The first is to synthesize all the information from the research paper by outlining its salient points. The second is to explain the description of the job shadows and/or the physical products. The third is to display oral presentation skills.

Share only the most important and interesting discoveries from the paper. Spend most of the presentation time on the activity hours and how this experience helped you understand the researched career or social issue.

Conclude in your presentation with a reflection of your project. Consider the following questions as soon as possible after you complete your project. Are you still interested in pursuing this career? How did writing the research paper help you form your decision? How did the activity verify or change this opinion? Why are you/ were you interested in this social issue? What did you learn about the issue in your research?

Presentation must be formatted in a PowerPoint. Student MUST demonstrate newly-acquired skills either through slides in the PowerPoint, video, or poster board pictures. Videos can be no longer than three minutes. Students may also demonstrate some portion of the skill during the presentation. Students should dress in a career uniform or appropriate clothing for a job interview. Give your teacher advance notice if you will require other equipment besides a computer and LCD projector. The PowerPoint shall be between 15-25 slides.

Alignment of the Senior Project to California State Standards

State Standard	Senior Project Assignment
W 1.3, W 1.7	Prepare A Working Outline.
W 1.6, R 2.3	Conduct Research with source cards and Note Cards Assignment One
W 1.6, R 2.3	Conduct Research with source cards and Note Cards Assignment Two
W 1.6, R 2.3	Conduct Research with source cards and Note Cards Assignment Three
W/O 1.2	Product Plan Organizer and Letter
W 1.3, W 1.7	Prepare Final Outline
W/ O 1.1	Write the 1 st Draft
W 1.7	Prepare Work Cited
W 1.9	2 nd Draft of Research Paper
W/O 1.3	Final Draft of Research Paper
L&S 1.4, 1.7	Presentation Outline
L&S 2.1, 2.2, 2.4	Final Presentation