

Kapaa High School Senior Project



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Kapaa High School Senior Project

Overview

Successful completion of the Senior Project provides the student with the opportunity to demonstrate advanced proficiency in the attainment of the General Learner Outcomes (GLO). The Senior Project must demonstrate a “learning stretch” of what the student has learned, and be personally useful and relevant for that student.

Senior Project Essential Components

In order for the student to receive the Senior Project Credit he or she must demonstrate proficiency in the following:

Phase One: Preliminary Planning

- **Letter of Intent and Corresponding Documents**
Each student submits a letter of intent for approval utilizing the mechanism established at Kapaa High School. **Prior to beginning of the Senior Project the Senior Project Committee must approve the letter of intent.**
- **Every student must secure a mentor.**

Phase Two: Research and Action

- **(Research)** Thesis Research Paper
- **(Action)** Culminating Activity – the student will select one of the three options
 - a. Career Focus: Job Shadowing (15 hours with a mentor)
 - b. Service Learning (15 hours with a mentor)
 - c. Student Personal Interest – Product and Action (15 hours with a mentor)

Phase Three: Formal Presentation and Evaluation

- **Presentation**
A formal 10 – 15 minute presentation before a Project Panel followed by a question and answer session. The presentation can be done orally, in a creative presentation or in a non-traditional mode.
- **Senior Project Portfolio**
The Senior Project Portfolio documents the student’s experience, processes, and personal insights.

Project Choices

Each student will select one of the following types of projects.

Service Learning – The student completes a 15 hour service-learning project that makes a concrete and visible impact in the school or community with a mentor.

Career Project (Job Shadowing) – The student works with a mentor (15 hours), one on one, in a specific area related to the student’s desired goals and interest.

Student Personal Interest – Product and Action – The product and action associated with the student’s personal interest must be related to the essential question and project thesis (15 hours with a mentor). The student may choose a product that is performance or problem based.

Project Required Activities

The Senior Project consists of the following required activities:

- A project proposal and letter of intent to be approved.
- A research paper on an approved topic of the student’s choice.
- Work logs documenting the number of hours spent on the project, how exactly the time was filled, and log must be signed by the mentor at each meeting.
- Reflective logs.
- A portfolio including some form of visual documentation (example: photos of work/skill experience).
- A formal oral presentation before a panel of community members, teachers, administrators, counselors, and staff.

Each of the above activities will be assessed by a rubric that aligns with Hawaii State Standards.

Senior Project 2009 -2010 Master Calendar

August 10 – 14	Introduction of Senior Project Packets
August 28	Research Project Proposal and Commitment Letter Due Liability Form Release Form for Video Production
September 11	Mentor Paper Due
October 2	Reflection # 1 Due
November 20	Reflection # 2 Due
December 18	15 hours with Mentor Due
January 15	Research Outline Due
January 29	Draft 1 Due
March 6	Reflection #3 Due
March 12	Research Paper Due
April 20	Oral Presentations
April 30	Reflection #4 Due
May 7	Thank You Cards to Mentors

Hawaii State Department of Education
Senior Project
Parent/Guardian Consent/Liability Release Form
Kapaa High School

To the Parents/Guardians of _____:

Your son/daughter is about to embark upon an exciting educational journey! The **Senior Project** will provide enormous benefits for your child both now and in the future. Successful completion of the **Senior Project** is a valuable tool in determining your child's mastery of the General Learner Outcomes and the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards.

Please take some time to discuss the project with your child, and initial each of the items below indicating that you have read, understood, and approve of each.

_____ I approve of my child's selected research paper topic.

_____ I approve of my child's selected project, and understand that some of the work will be completed outside of normal school hours.

_____ I approve of my child's mentor.

_____ I acknowledge that the mentor selected is at least 21 years old, who is not an immediate family member.

_____ I understand that all transportation for work outside of the school day is the responsibility of the student or parent.

_____ I understand that all costs and risks associated with the project are the responsibility of the student or parent.

_____ I understand that the final project must be physically at school the day of the **Senior Project** presentation. If the product is a service or activity, it must be documented by photos or a video.

_____ I understand that integrity and honesty are just as important as all other components of the **Senior Project**. Any suspicion that my child has plagiarized or has been dishonest in any aspect of the **Senior Project** process may result in a referral to the school's Senior Project Advisory Team, administration, or other appropriate authority.

I understand that the school, complex area, State, and their agents are not responsible for all potential risks resulting from the **Senior Project**. Accordingly, I release Kapaa High School, the Kauai Complex Area, the Hawaii State Department of Education and their agents from all claims arising from any financial obligation incurred, and damage, injury, or accident suffered why my child participates in the **Senior Project**.

Parent/Guardian's Name (Print) _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Release Form for Video and Radio Production/Broadcast and Electronically Displayed Student Work

Kapaa High School utilizes the latest technologies to support student learning needs. As part of the many technological applications employed across the curriculum, we produce and publish a variety of projects on the Internet, radio, and television.

I hereby give authorize Kapaa High School to take photographs, video and audio recordings of me and/or my property.

I hereby give permission for my child's work, which may or may not be accompanied by the child's name, email address and/or photograph, to be displayed by television, radio or Internet and produced by Kapaa High School, and hereby release the State of Hawai'i Department of Education, Kapaa High School, their agents and students from any liability resulting from or connected with the publication or production of such work.

student's name

teacher

Parent's or Guardian's Signature

date

Developing a Research Topic

Researching your topic will be the foundation of the entire Senior Project. A well thought out and developed topic can make your project an exciting and interesting exercise. However, a misstep in choosing a topic at the beginning of the project will create many unforeseen problems later in its development. Such problems waste a great deal of time and energy on your part.

The following steps are guidelines to developing a research a research topic that will help guide and organize your entire project.

Step 1 – Generalize

Explore a general area of interest.

- Subject should be broad and something you are EXTREMELY interested in.

Examples: Health/Medicine	Business/Tourism
Industrial Arts	Visual and Performing Arts
Culinary Arts	Agriculture
Music	Human Services
Military	

Step 2 – Narrow the subject down

Consider your reasons for your interest in the subject.

- Are you still going to be interested in the subject?
- Why does the subject interest you?
- Specifically, what parts of the topic are you curious about or most interested in? Create a list (use complete sentences for each item on your list.)

Step 3 – Choose a topic that is most appropriate to the assignment

From the list of the above ideas, choose a topic that satisfies the following criteria:

- Is the topic unbiased?
- Is the topic specific enough to answer in 6 pages?
- Is the topic broad enough so that there will be many sources of information?
- Does the topic address ideas outside of you, your family, and your immediate peer groups?

Step 4 – Thinking about your project

Which type of project would this subject best be presented with: Service Learning Project, Self-Development Project or Career Project?

Step 5 – Finalizing your topic

Do preliminary research to make sure that you are certain about the topic for your Senior Project.

Senior Project Proposal and Commitment Form letter

Your street address
City, State, Zip Code
Date

Senior Project Advisory Board
Kapaa High School
Mailihuna Rod
Kapaa, HI 96746

Dear Senior Project Advisory Board:

In this paragraph, describe the general area of interest for your project (science, art, sports, law, etc.), and why you are interested in this area. Make sure you explain what you already know, experienced, or have accomplished in this area.

In the second paragraph, include specific research your paper will focus on, some of the ideas you hope to include, a working draft of your essential question, and what possible sources you might use.

Begin this paragraph with a transitional sentence showing the relationship between your paper and your physical project. Then describe your project, what it will be, who's involved, potential cost, potential time spent, and possible resources.

Finally, explain your understanding of plagiarism and the repercussions of such an act.

You will need the following signatures upon submission to the Senior Project Advisory Board:

Student: _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____

Research Topic _____

Senior Project Research Paper

Guidelines

The research paper must consist of the following:

1. Title Page
2. Five – Eight pages of research
3. Minimum 1000 words
4. Works Cited Page (Internet, newspapers, books, encyclopedias, manuals, personal interviews, Magazines, etc...)
 - Minimum 5 sources
 - No more than three from any one type of source (Variety, 2 Educational data basis)
 - At least 1 primary source
 - 3 internet sources maximum
5. Paper will be done in MLA format
 - All papers typed in Ariel or New Times Roman 12pt. font
 - 1” margins all around
 - Page numbers and last name in top right corner required

Research Paper Final Draft Due: March 12, 2010

Before you begin your research paper and while completing your research, you will develop a THESIS STATEMENT. The THESIS STATEMENT:

1. is short paragraph statement about the topic being examined.
2. is specific and clear.
3. States your opinion.
4. is arguable (there are other viewpoints)
5. is supportive with evidence from your research and your own analysis.

Reasons Senior Projects are Denied

1. Paper Topic:

- Too broad
- Too narrow
- Too shallow
- Inappropriate

2. Field Work:

- Too vague
- Age/Legal Barriers
- Too complex-insufficient background
- No hands-on activity; “hanging out” or merely observing is not enough of a stretch
- Not enough of a stretch; serving as an assistant without direct, hands on environment
- Dangerous

3. Portfolio:

- Incomplete

The following topics are NOT acceptable for your Senior Project:

- Witchcraft
- Gambling
- Satanism
- Tattooing
- Illegal Activities (illegal drugs, prostitution, pornography)
- Bob Marley
- Raves
- Astrology
- Kit Models
- Recycled Projects from previous years
- Abortion
- Medical Marijuana

Senior Project Mentor Log

DATE	ACTIVITY/TASKS	TIME SPENT	MENTOR SIGNATURE
Sample 9/20/2009	Today I met with my mentor and I interviewed him about his job (duties, pay, education, job trend). I also got a tour of his job site and met with a lot of people.	3.5 hours	

Senior Project Portfolio Checklist

	Exceeds	Meets	Below
1. Letter of Intent			
2. Liability Form			
3. Mentor Paper			
4. Video Release			
5. Reflection #1			
6. Reflection #2			
7. Reflection #3			
8. Research Paper			
Cover Page			
Outline			
Paper			
Work Cited			
9. Mentor Log (15 hrs)			
10. Grade Sheet			