

Senior Projects

Completion of Senior Project is a graduation requirement at Rosemont High School, as well as at all of the other high schools in Sacramento City Unified School District. If you do not pass all portions of Senior Project, you will not be eligible to graduate. In order to get your Senior Project approved, you must submit the three proposal forms and a typed Letter of Intent; the forms and a sample letter follow this information page. **All four elements must be submitted at the same time, and the deadline for submission is October 15th**. Submit your forms to Ms. Siegert in E206. The Senior Project Handbook, as well as the Research manual, can be accessed through the school's home page; if you do not already have a manual, you should download one: <http://schools.scusd.edu/rhs/seniorproject.htm>

There are four main components of the Senior Project, each of which is listed below.

Presentation

Your presentation needs to be 8-10 minutes long, and the judges have a 5-minute question/ answer session once you finish speaking. The rubric for the presentation can be found in the handbook; a passing score on the presentation portion of the Senior Project is 60/ 100, and your presentation score is doubled when determining your overall grade. If you are struggling with how to organize your speech, use the rubric as a guideline. The judges are looking for an introduction, body, and conclusion to your presentation (where you showcase/ demo your product), as well as an explanation of your research paper and how it connects to your topic. Lastly, you need to include your personal reflections on your experience with Senior Project (successes, challenges, obstacles, achievements, what you learned, how it was a stretch, etc.) Consider breaking up the areas you need to cover in your speech into 2-minute sections to help you create a strong structure. Be sure to practice your speech ahead of time so that you're familiar enough with it that you're not reading straight off of your note cards.

In addition to grading the content of your speech, the judges are also scoring your presentation skills. Review section two of the presentation rubric to familiarize yourself with what the judges expect. If your project lends itself to a specific outfit (a gi for karate, a chef's coat for cooking, a salsa outfit for salsa dancing), you are encouraged to wear it; otherwise, be sure to dress professionally.

Product

Your product is a part of your presentation; it is the physical evidence you show of what you learned/ created. It can be a performance (songs on the guitar, a specific dance), a video (chronicling your time spent and experience working on your product), picture boards (chronicling your time spent and experience working on your product), or something physical that you have actually created (a model house, art pieces, furniture, etc.). Power Point presentations that combine your speaking notes and pictures of your product are also acceptable, but your product cannot simply be a power point of text slides.

Research Paper

This element of your Senior Project needs to be included in your portfolio, but it is counted as a separate portion. Your paper needs to be 7 pages minimum (MLA format, Times New Roman 12-point font, typed and double-spaced, including Works Cited page). You must use at least five sources in your paper, and one of them must not be from the Internet. You are encouraged to use charts, tables, figures, illustrations, etc. in the body of your paper as long as they apply and as long as you cite them; do not use unnecessary pictures or clip art. If you're struggling with the page limit, break up the paper in the same way as the presentation; you need an introduction (with thesis statement), body, and conclusion. You could write a page of introduction to your topic, which would include your thesis, and you could also write a page of concluding thoughts (maybe a solution/recommendation, speculation, a question, an anecdote, etc.). That leaves four minimum body pages, which can be easily broken up to fit your topic. Remember that this is a RESEARCH paper, not a reflection; therefore, you should not use any 1st person references in your paper (I, me, in my opinion, etc.) A passing score on the paper is a 60/ 100 or above.

Portfolio

The portfolio is where all of your materials and paperwork related to your senior project, including a letter of introduction to the judges, are showcased. You can use a binder, a scrapbook, a folder, etc. as your physical portfolio; some students have chosen to put it together almost as a book. Listed below are the items you need to have in your portfolio, which is graded on its completeness and presentation; a passing score is 60/ 100.

- Table Of Contents
- Letter of Introduction to Judges (follow the example in the blue book)
- Senior Project Approval Forms
 - Cover Page Approval Form
 - Parent Permission Form
 - Outside Mentor Form
- Letter of Intent
- Research Paper
- Time Logs
- Outside Mentor Log
- Surveys, Questionnaires, Interviews (if applicable)
- Letters/ Emails of correspondence (if applicable)
- Receipts (if applicable)
- Schedules (if applicable)
- Research Notes/ Rough Drafts (if applicable)

Senior Project Proposal

Student's Name _____ SLC _____ Date _____

PRODUCT

- What is the physical product you will create? Be specific and add details.

- What steps will you take to complete this product?

- How will you keep track of your process of creating the product?

PAPER

- What are you researching for your paper? Be as specific as possible.

PROJECT

- How is this project a stretch for you? What challenges will you face?

- When the project is completed, what will you have learned?

APPROVAL Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Permission Form

Student's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Parent's Phone: Home _____ Work _____

As a parent/guardian of _____, a senior at Rosemont High School, I am aware that my son/daughter must pass all portions of the Senior Project in order to graduate in June 2010.

For the project, my son/daughter has chosen to: _____

He/she has my permission to complete this project, and I agree to release Rosemont High School, the Sacramento City Unified School District, and its employees from all claims arising from financial obligation incurred, or damage, injury, or accident suffered while my son/daughter participates in the project that he/she has chosen. My son/daughter has chosen _____ to be his/her Outside Mentor for Senior Project. The above named Mentor has agreed to the responsibilities outlined in the Outside Mentor Agreement form and letter.

I DO _____ DO NOT _____ (check one) authorize my son/daughter to meet his/her Outside Mentor off-campus for the purpose of working on Senior Project.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature _____

Date: _____

Outside Mentor Agreement Form

Student's Name _____

Mentor's Name _____

Mentor's Address _____

Mentor's Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Relationship to Student _____

In the space given, please briefly describe why you are qualified to mentor the student in his/her chosen project: _____

_____.

I, the undersigned, have met with the above named student and have discussed his/her plans for the Senior Project at Rosemont High School. I acknowledge that the student will work on his/her project over the course of the school year and that I will offer assistance in completing the project phase of Rosemont High School's Senior Project during that time. I understand that I will be a resource and consultant for the student and will be asked to verify the student's progress and hours spent. I also understand that Senior Project is the sole responsibility of the student and that I am not to complete the project for the student. I understand that I will work with the student only by phone or on site at Rosemont High School unless given express written permission by the parents of the student to meet off campus.

Signature _____

Date _____

[Current Date]

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[Your City], CA [Your Zip]

SLC Teachers

Rosemont High School

Sacramento, CA 95827

Dear SLC Teachers:

[Paragraph 1] Describe the general area of interest (such as art, communications, social problems, physical fitness, automotive). Explain why you chose this area. Explain in detail what you already know or have done in this area (your experience/knowledge). Identify what you hope to learn or accomplish by doing this project.

[Paragraph 2] What specifically will you need to research (find out) and learn in order to be able to do your project? Who and what do you plan to use for resources? Include names of two people/authorities you plan to interview for information and identify their expertise/background.

[Paragraph 3] Describe your project, giving very specific details – what your project will be, what you will actually do, who and/or what will be involved, possible mentor to help you, estimated cost of project, estimated time required to complete project, and what will you consider to be a completed project. Explain clearly how this project will stretch you beyond current knowledge and/or current skills. [Remember that the Senior Project is designed to stretch your limits and skills by exploring a new area or skill or by developing and extending a skill beyond your current skill level; it is **not** an opportunity to do again something which you already know or have done.

[Paragraph 4] Explain what plagiarism is and the consequences of plagiarizing or falsifying any information, including the fact that this would result in failing the Senior Project, a graduation requirement. Conclude with a clear statement affirming that you will not plagiarize or falsify any information in your research, your research narrative, or in your project.

Sincerely,

[Your Signature]

[Your Name Typed]

May 25, 2007

Joe Student
1234 Rosemont Way
Sacramento, CA. 95827

BAM Teachers
Rosemont High School
Sacramento, CA. 95827

Dear BAM Teachers:

For my Senior Project, I have chosen to teach in an elementary school classroom. Ever since I was young, I have always been good at math. Last year, I was a TA for a math teacher, and I liked helping students with their work because they seemed to understand when I explained it to them. By choosing this focus for my Senior Project, I hope to learn whether or not I could be a teacher, which is the career that I have been considering.

In order to complete my Senior Project, I need to learn more about the specific content I want to teach, and I also need to learn strategies that will help me teach this content. I have already spoken with Ms. Govea, my favorite math teacher, who has agreed to let me interview her. Additionally, my neighbor, Mr. Smith, is a math teacher at Sac State, and I am going to interview him too. I have already done some research online, and I found teaching tools and sample lesson plans.

I plan on teaching at Sequoia Elementary School in Mr. Teacher's 4th grade classroom. In November and December, I will be observing his class two times a month for one hour, In January, I will start to volunteer after school as a tutor once a week for an hour, and in March, I will teach three classes by myself. Mr. Teacher will be helping me put together lesson plans and other activities, so it should not cost me any money. When I present my Senior Project, I will show samples of the students' work, and I will show what they learned by providing a pre and a post test of the material I taught. Also, I am going to get permission to record myself teaching, and permission to take pictures of the students; I will show all of these to the panel. This is a stretch for me because I have never taught an entire class of students before, and learning how to teach is very difficult.

Plagiarism is stealing someone else's ideas or words and presenting them as your own. I understand that if I plagiarize, I will fail Senior Project, which means I will not graduate. Therefore, I will not plagiarize any portion of my Senior Project.

Sincerely,

Joe Student