

The 5 Phases of the Senior Project Explained

Phase 1 = Topic Exploration, Project Proposal, and Observation

200 Points

The first phase of the project is completed the Junior Year under the direction of the English 11 teacher.

Topic Exploration (80 points) - All Preston High School English 11 teachers conduct a topic investigation activity that is a part of the English 11 class curriculum. The successful completion of these activities is passed on to the senior project director and a **score** will be recorded as part of the senior project grade.

The Topic – a topic will only be approved if: a) it is new learning, not something the student has previous expertise b) it requires the student to STRETCH themselves c) no aspect of the project is part any other class d) the student does not receive any monetary compensation e) all aspects of the project can be successfully completed.

Project Proposal (60 points) –Students are to type (in complete sentences) the online proposal form, have it signed by the 4 Faculty advisors (Mrs. Crossley, Mr. Shumway, Mrs. Spencer, Mr. Marlow) and turn it in for approval before starting any project completion.

Junior Year Observation (60 points) - Students must attend the assigned presentations of the older senior class and complete the observation form.

The completed form is to be left with the judges of the last presentation observed.

Why is this project starting so soon? The senior project is started during the junior year for the student's benefit. Some project activities may require summer months to complete. For Example, if a student desires to do a senior project on water sports; the summer weather before the senior year would be necessary in order to complete the project. It also allows students ample time to complete the 20+ hours and minimize the stress of the senior year.

What if I missed the English 11 topic activities? Students who do not take English 11 from one of the PHS teachers (students who take an online course or transfer to Preston High after the junior year) will need to complete this activity under the direction of the senior project director.

Can I change my topic? Although it will create extra work, students can change their topic up until September 30th of the senior year.

Can I make up the observation if I miss them? No.

Phase 2 – The Projects

Project Work Journal Checks 75 Points

Project requirements – Rather than completing one big project, students will complete several mini projects to gain diverse, cross-curricular knowledge. Students are required to complete at least one **substantial** mini project under each of the following areas: 1. Math/Science 2. History/Government 3. Humanities/Arts/Electives 4. Literature/Writing. The total time spent completing the mini projects must add up to a **minimum of 20 Hours**.

The Process:

1. As project activities are completed students are to record in detail the completed work in the corresponding work journal.
2. Attend the identified work journal checks to show progress made.
3. Because the mini projects will be a major part of the presentation (phase 5); keep photos, charts, notes, or anything else that may be helpful in the presentation.

There will be progress checks in October, January, and March! Don't Procrastinate! Each check will be worth 25 points.

Can I change project activities after my proposal has been approved? Yes, just meet with a project supervisor before completing a major change from the proposal.

Can I make up a work journal check after the identified due date? No.

Phase 3 – The Research Paper

Failure to successfully complete the research paper will result in a failure of the Senior Project credit!

Paper Requirements - Students will complete an academic research paper (Persuasion, Cause/Effect, Comparison/Contrast, or Analytical) in standard MLA format. The paper will be done the senior year under the direction of the Senior English Instructor. The paper topic must be directly tied senior project topic. *No part of the research paper can be used to complete the Literature/Writing portion of the project.*

The final, GRADED, copy of the research paper must be included in the Project Portfolio.

What if I take English 12 online? A five page, MLA research paper is still required and must be completed under the direction of the project supervisor.

Phase 4 – The Project Portfolio

400 points

Failure to successfully complete the portfolio will result in a failure of the Senior Project credit!

******The entire project must be completed the day the portfolio is due******

A committee will evaluate the portfolio for: completeness, neatness, the quality of the completed projects, proposal completion, and how well the objective of a stretch to new learning was met.

The Portfolio – Students will create a portfolio of their senior project. Organize the required portfolio entries in the following order.

- _____ 1. A cover page with current student photo
- _____ 2. A table of contents **or** section tabs (Microsoft Word instructions for making a table of contents are below)
- _____ 3. All Forms: a) The approved, signed, Project Proposal and Parent Verification form b) The completed Presentation Workshop Verification form c) The completed Presentation Practice Verification form
- _____ 4. The final graded research paper and grading rubric
- _____ 5. The senior self-reflection assignment as completed in the English 12 class
- _____ 6. The 4 completed, detailed, and signed multi-genre work journals
- _____ 7. All project work documentation – research, readings, writings, interviews, experiments...
- _____ 8. Copies of thank-you letters sent to people who helped you with your project (minimum of 3)
- _____ 9. The Project Presentation Grading Rubric

Making a Table of Contents

In Microsoft Word on the Home tab: Click on Paragraph, In the lower left corner click on Tabs, set the Tab Stop Position to 6.5, Set the Alignment position to right, Make the Leader 2, Click Set and OK.

Can I turn my portfolio in late? Yes, but a 15% deduction per day will be assessed.

Phase 5 – The Presentation

325 points

Presentation Workshop, Presentation Practice, and Final Formal Presentation:

Students will demonstrate mastery of their topic and the ability to give a formal informational presentation. The senior project presentation date is set by the school administration. Students will only be allowed to present on an alternate date for extreme, unavoidable circumstances.

Presentation Workshop (50 points) – Students will be expected to attend a presentation workshop given during school time in early April and complete the workshop form. Student who miss the workshop for a valid reason can complete an alternate assignment under the direction of the project supervisor.

Practice Presentation (25 points) – Students will do at least one practice presentation before a group (minimum of 6 observers) and complete the form with signatures.

Final Formal Presentation (250 points) - Students will perform a 12-15 minute formal presentation to a board of judges featuring all he/she learned about their chosen topic from phases 1-3. Students should carefully examine the presentation rubric for understanding of evaluation criterion.

Failure to successfully complete the final presentation will result in a failure of the Senior Project credit!

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!No make-up opportunities will be granted. The Senior Project grade assessed at the end of the presentation day is Final!!!!!!!!!!!!!!