



The Graduation Project is required for high school graduation of all students. Students are required to complete the four components of the Graduation Project: the paper, product, presentation, and portfolio. Projects are expected to be aligned with the NC Standard Course of Study and 21st Century Skills. The purpose of the required North Carolina Graduation Project is to allow each graduating senior to exhibit the ability to translate the skills and knowledge he or she has gained in high school into the real world. The Graduation Project allows each student to choose a topic of his or her interest and encourages inquiry, collaboration, analysis, synthesis, rigor, and communication.

The Components:

The Product

The product provides direct, physical evidence of the student's work with his/her mentor, the process followed, and the "learning stretch." It is in this stage that the student must work with an approved mentor independently, outside of class, for a minimum of fifteen (15) hours. This component requires the student to express creativity, talent, and/or interest *not* previously developed. The product provides direct, physical evidence of the student's work with the mentor and the process followed. The student may build or create something tangible, shadow a community member for the purpose of gathering and later imparting the information, volunteer in the community, teach a class, develop a community project, etc.

The Research Paper

The paper will reflect the student's ability to:

- research a topic that is closely aligned with the student's project aims
- synthesize the information
- formulate and express an opinion, not simply regurgitate information
- prove the thesis using a variety of credible resources
- apply Modern Language Association's (MLA) format and citations

The student must use a minimum of five (5) sources, and the paper must be a minimum of five (5) full pages.

***Paper length is subject to course level and teacher discretion.**

****Please see end note about plagiarism and the Code of Student Conduct in this handbook**



The Portfolio

The student is required to keep records and materials relating to the product in a portfolio. The portfolio will contain:

- a copy of required forms
- a copy of the research paper
- mentor documentation
- any additional artifacts (i.e. photographs) desired by the student
- a written self-evaluation of the student's work and growth

The portfolio must be available for the Senior Board judges to review.

The Presentation

Each student must successfully present his or her findings to a panel of judges made up of school staff and community members. This is the ultimate step in the process and gives the student an opportunity to describe what he or she has learned from conducting research, writing the paper, and fulfilling the requirements of the Graduation Project. This will consist of an 8 to 15 minute presentation. A question and answer period will follow.

Grading:

Students must adhere to due dates and times for maximum credit on any given assignment. Grades will be recorded in English III & IV. The following scale will be used for all assignments and due dates:

- a. Assignments turned in on time will have a maximum grade of 100.
- b. Assignments turned in one (1) day late will have a maximum grade of 90.
- c. Assignments turned in two (2) days late will have a maximum grade of 80.
- d. Assignments turned in three (3) days late will have a maximum grade of 70.
- e. Assignments turned in more than three (3) days late will receive a grade of 0, **BUT MUST STILL BE COMPLETED** in order to complete the Graduation Project.

**Just a note about plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a crime. Each student will receive in-depth instruction on the correct citation of material. Any plagiarized Graduation Project component will not be accepted and must be redone.