



## Carteret County Schools Graduation Project OVERVIEW

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

### 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
- synthesize the information
- formulate an opinion
- 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.

**\*\*Please see end note about plagiarism.**

### 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
- the research paper
- mentor documentation
- any additional artifacts desired by the student
- a written reflection of the student's work and growth

The portfolio must be available for the presentation panel to review.



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## 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. The panel is referred to as the "Graduation Board." **Students will only be eligible to present at Graduation Boards if they have completed all 3 prior components: Research Paper, Product, & Portfolio.**

\*\*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.

I (student) \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand the above requirements involving the North Carolina Graduation Project. I agree to abide by the requirements. I will conduct myself with the utmost professionalism in working with school and community leaders. I understand that it is necessary for me to work with school and community resources. I understand any part of the graduation project components (paper, product, portfolio, and presentation) that result in no completion or a score less than 3 on any requirement will result in my not meeting English IV requirements for graduation. Each component of this graduation project depends on the other three components; in order to complete the graduation project requirement, I must successfully complete all components.

I (parent/guardian) \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand the above requirements involving the North Carolina Graduation Project. I agree to abide by the requirements. I understand that my child is expected to conduct him/herself with the utmost professionalism in working with school and community leaders. I understand that it is necessary for my child to work with school and community resources. I understand any part of the graduation project components (paper, product, portfolio, and presentation) that result in no completion or a score less than 3 on any requirement will result in my not meeting the English IV requirements for graduation. Each component of this graduation project depends on the other three components; in order to complete the graduation project requirement, my child must successfully complete all components. I indemnify and hold harmless Carteret County Schools and its employees for any accident or injury that may result from participation in Graduation Project. I agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Carteret County Schools, its officers, agents, employees or representatives against any and all claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses of whatever nature, including court costs and attorney's fees arising out of or resulting from my child's participation in the above-named activity.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_