

Distance Learning Senior Project

Casa Roble High School

Due to the pandemic, the class of 2021 will complete a modified senior project. The following items must be submitted to your ELA 4 or AP Lit teacher by the end of the course. Expect to spend at least 15-20 hours on this project.

Letter of Intent

Business Letter

The first step of your senior project is to introduce your idea to your English teacher. This must be done in a business letter format and it must be approved before you begin your research. Your project must be academically appropriate and demonstrate new learning and fit into one of the following categories:

- You may research a current problem/issue and report on possible solutions
- You may learn a new skill/ create a product (your product may not be made from a kit)
- You may research a career opportunity

Your proposal letter must contain at least the following items:

- Describe your interest in the skill/issue/career
- Describe what you intend to research
- Describe what you intend to produce (See “product” information below)

Research

Informational Paper

This step requires that you research an element of your project, beginning with an introduction of what you are learning and culminating in a literature review. Your literature review will be an informational paper examining the expert’s view of a problem you are researching or an essential element of your new learning. Please be sure to include at least four (4) sources, be careful not to plagiarize, and use Standard English grammar.

Literature Review Suggested Format

Paragraph 1:

- Introduce your problem or research in detail.

Paragraph 2:

- Introduce the experts you have researched. What makes these sources credible and why are the authors of these sources considered experts?

Paragraphs 3-9: (The number of paragraphs will depend on the number of sources you utilize or the number of subtopics you choose.)

- You can handle this section in one of two ways. You can dedicate a paragraph to each of the sources/experts that you consulted, or you can break your problem/research into subtopics and address how multiple experts approached each subtopic.

Concluding Paragraph:

- Draw a final conclusion after fully researching this problem/new learning.

Suggested Ideas:

- An informational paper on the possible solutions to the problem/issue you are researching.
- An informational paper on the benefits and usefulness of the skill that you are learning.
- An informational paper outlining the advantages and disadvantages of the career you are researching. It might also contain the training necessary to begin working in the field. You could also try and virtually interview someone who works in the field and include information about what a typical day in this industry might look like.

Reflective Log

For this element of your project, you must create a reflective log with three (3) entries. One entry must reflect upon your learning at the beginning stages; one entry must reflect upon your learning from the middle stages; and one entry must reflect upon the end of your progress. *Each entry should have at least one photo to visually document your process.*

Product

You and your teacher must choose a product that is appropriate to the knowledge you gained in your research. It can take the form of a product, a slide-based presentation (Power-Point, Google Slides, Prezi, etc.), a video presentation, or a written plan for reform.

Ideas:

- A video-recorded speech of you outlining the issue you researched and presenting possible solutions
- A Prezi presentation in which you present your issue/problem and possible solutions
- A product/plan that addresses the issue you researched
- A video-recorded speech where you outline the career you researched
- A product/plan to address an issue that is present in the career you researched
- A video-recorded demonstration of the skill you learned

Senior Project Samples

Problem/Solution

Tracy wanted to know more about the importance of the bee population and its current decline. Her literature review consisted of a summary of the experts' view of bee population decline. Her product was a virtual speech on the issue and some of the possible solutions.

Skill:

Lilly wanted to learn to write for the local newspaper. She virtually interned at the paper. Her literature review included research into the possibility that print media might be a dying art. She included the experts' opinions on the status of print media. Her product was her published piece in the paper.

Career:

Joe wanted to learn about dentistry. His literature review consisted of the training necessary for the career, the financial benefits of the career, and some of the current issues facing the dental industry. While researching, he discovered that many children cannot be seen at the dentist because they are simply too afraid and uncooperative. For his product he designed a children's coloring book that helped kids understand the dentist.