



Northern Lights Community School

Senior Project Guidelines (2014-2015)

The Senior Project is a comprehensive undertaking that must be successfully completed as part of a student's graduation requirements. This is an opportunity for seniors at NLCS to provide rationale for graduation. Students will be fulfilling a Minnesota Curriculum Standard by demonstrating the ability to “apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information and communicate significant knowledge and understanding.” Each student will develop and complete a project of educational significance. Although various forms of assistance will be made available, the primary initiative for the completion of the project lies with the student. Because selection of a project topic will be derived from the student, based on such factors as interest and knowledge, few limits will be placed on what subjects a student may choose.

The senior project provides a way for students to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have acquired. There are four things to consider:

- Choose a topic based on your own interests. It should be something you will be able to work with for months!
- The project will require you to go beyond what you already know about the topic. Be ready to use your research skills to find new information.
- You will create a product and presentation that represent your work.
- Finally, you will have a critical audience. They will expect your very best work!

Here's what you need to know in order to succeed:

1. Begin with a project proposal form and timeline. The form must be approved by the senior project planning team. Please observe deadlines. Students who miss a deadline will have to reschedule for the next senior presentation. To remain on the potential graduates list, students must be within 9 validated credits by October of their presentation year. Senior project hours will not be used in the credit count on these dates.

Presentation Deadlines for 2014-2015

	Presenting Winter 2014	Presenting Spring 2014
Proposal Acceptance	September 2014	December 2014
Completed timeline	September 2014	December 2014
Completed Checklist	December 2014	April 2015
Pre-Presentations	December 2014	April 2015
Presentation	January 2015	May 2015

2. All seniors will make preliminary presentations about two-four weeks prior to official presentation. This is how the staff makes sure students are ready to be on the presentation schedule. If the staff determines a pre-presentation is not good enough, a student will not be allowed to present on the official presentation night. Work with the community team and project advisor before the pre-presentation to uncover possible problems and allow time to refine the presentation as needed.

3. A senior project needs to include all of the following:
 - a. A recommended 300 hours, time spent must be document
 - b. Specific grading rubric just for Senior project
 - c. Senior Project Team (see below for more information)
 - d. Two practice presentations
 - e. Project demonstrates authentic hands-on learning and not just a regurgitation of book knowledge
 - f. Connection with a community member as a resource for their project
 - g. Senior interview at the end of project
 - h. Timeline sheet
 - i. Picture of final project for website along with brief description
 - j. Completed Senior Project Checklist
 - k. Extensive thinking. Create! Invent! Be original! Design! Discover! Imagine! Requirements for an acceptable senior project go far beyond using a manual, replicating printed materials, or following a blueprint.

5. A Senior Project Team must include *at least* the following:
 - a. Parent
 - b. Advisor
 - c. An NLCS student who has not yet done a senior project
 - d. An outside community expert
 - f. At least one other NLCS staff member

It is the senior's responsibility to set-up the Senior Project Team. Senior projects are proposed and validated through the Senior Project Team. Projects begin with proposal forms and use a process similar to those of previous projects, but the senior project requires much more work. The rubric checklist is a significant addition to the process.