



Common Student Questions

How do I choose a project?

To select project ideas, students are encouraged to think about and find topics that match personal interests. Topics should be exciting and meaningful and should represent significant academic and personal growth challenges. Projects must also benefit or have a connection to the community. Students will select their own projects and submit proposals that are to be approved before students launch into fulfilling the remainder of the culminating project expectations.

Is any topic okay?

Students must demonstrate in proposals that topics meet the goals for the Culminating Project and fit into one of the broad categories (developing or improving a skill or performance; designing or creating a product, service, system, or event; investigating a career). Proposals must also clearly show connections between research (a scholarly paper) and an overall project that benefits or connects to the community. Projects that potentially put students in harm or risk of injuries will not be approved.

When are projects due?

Project **proposals** are due in the spring of students' junior years. Projects may begin any time after proposals are approved. **Scholarly papers** are due in junior English classes. **Presentations** will take place during students' senior years. **Portfolios** and **Written Reflections** will be due three weeks before presentations.

Will there be help at school?

Absolutely! Juniors will meet with assigned Staff Mentors on two 2009 Monday early release dates (March 2 and March 23) from 10:40-11:10. Workshops and/or special seminars may also be offered for students needing additional support. Students should contact Ronni Weston, the Culminating Project Coordinator, to let her know if they are interested in such workshops. Other school resources include Library staff, Career Center staff and the Culminating Project Coordinator.

Who are Staff Mentors?

Every class of 2010 student will be assigned a Staff Mentor. Staff Mentors are teachers, counselors and administrators. They will offer guidance in the development of project ideas and proposals. They will also meet with students on a periodic basis and provide checkpoints throughout the entire Culminating Project.

Can I work with a partner or in a group?

The Culminating Project is an individual project; however, students may collaborate on project ideas that might involve a significant community benefit, for example. If students choose to work together on such a project, each must submit his/her own proposal, scholarly paper (essential question and actual paper must be original), portfolio and written reflection. Presentations must also be completed individually.

Will the Culminating Project affect my GPA?

No, projects are not graded, but all of the components of the project must meet or exceed specific requirements for students to graduate.