Senior Capstone Project

What is it?

Senior Capstone

- The senior project is a requirement for seniors to graduate

- It is a large project encompassing 3 distinct parts:
  - Research Paper (to be completed with English teacher)
  - Hands-on Project (to be completed with career path instructor and mentor)
  - Final Presentation complete with 2 visual aids, presented in front of an audience of peers, teachers, administrators, parents and community members

Initial Student Reactions to the words "Project" and "Research"

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- Students must decide on a hands-on project to be completed in their career path.

- For example, a construction student might construct a scale model of a cell tower.

From Project to Paper

- In addition to the project decided on in lab, students must then, in English class, select an in-depth research topic relating to the project of their choice.

- The same student with the cell tower model wrote on the topic of advancements in cellular communications.

Expectations for Research Paper

- Topic Selection Packet
- 3-5 pages in length (800-1000 words)
- Five sources—Three different TYPES of sources   (e.g. internet, internet, internet book, journal,)
  - You cannot have FIVE internet sources
- Five in-text citations
- 30 note cards
- Thorough Outline

Expectations, cont'd

- Must be written to APA standards
- Students will be expected to complete:
  - Cover page
  - Abstract
  - Outline
  - Paper
  - Bibliography Page (Works Cited/References)

Topic Selection

- Each student must choose a unique topic
  - No two students can do the same research topic
- How do you get your topic?
  - First, research TWO topics.
    - You must complete 3 research forms for EACH topic
    - After this is completed, your teacher will review and together, you will decide on the best topic to research.
      - English and lab instructors will sign off on final topic

Topic Selection, cont'd

- You WILL NOT get your topic approved until you have completed three research forms (Internet or Print) for EACH of the two topics.

  - We suggest to focus and use your time wisely in class to make sure you get the topic you want before someone else does.

Senior Project Examples

- Auto Collision Repair
  - Project: Various stages of paint on a car hood.
  - Paper: Advancements in spray gun technology and their affect on the industry

- Culinary Careers
  - Project: Wedding Cake.
  - Paper: Wedding cake and its cultural significance.

Project Examples, cont'd

- Auto Technology
  - Project: Antilock brake system.
  - Paper: Society and the antilock brake system: An impact saving lives.

- Veterinary Technician
  - Project: Identifying animal diseases
  - Paper: Zoonotic Diseases: Can they be prevented?

Project Examples, cont'd

- Cosmetology
  - Project: Nail Design
  - Paper: Understanding nail disease and how proper nail care can prevent it
- Interactive Media
  - Project: Video Production (Zombie Movie)
  - Paper: Effects of the Evolution of the Horror Genre on Society

Project Examples, cont'd

- Construction Technology
  - Project: Cell phone tower
  - Paper: Advancements in cellular communication.
- Health Academy
  - Project: Community Service/Pamphlet on drug abuse during pregnancy
  - Paper: Long/short term effects of drugs on the fetus.

Project Examples, cont'd

- Welding and Fabrication
  - Project: Metal work with welding examples.
  - Paper: Robotics: The future of welding.
- ITA
  - Project: Scale model of cabling
  - Paper: The ecological impact of discarded hardware.

Project Examples, cont'd

- Public Safety Services
  - Project: Creating advertisements for the proper usage of fire extinguishers and instructing others on fire extinguisher use
  - Paper: Fire extinguishers: What type is best for home use?

Practice Presentations

- Students will participate in a small five minute presentation in English class.

  – This will help you prepare for your larger presentation in lab.

- The larger presentation will be conducted in their lab.

  – In the past, construction technology had students present to a panel and were judged based on the lab teacher's criteria.

Now that I know what the project is, what do I do?

- First you must choose the two topics on which you want to complete initial research.

- Make sure your initial research is thorough because you can use the three websites you used for your topic selection packet for your actual research paper.

- Upon completion of the topic selection packet, you will have your topic approved and begin researching.

Where do I start searching?

- We advise everyone to begin their research by using INFOhio.org

- INFOhio.org allows you to access reliable information. All of your internet sources must be reliable.

- You may not use Wikipedia. It is a wiki and can be edited by anyone, so it is an unreliable source.

- If you are unsure of a source's reliability, check with me.

Where to Find Book Sources?

- It is sometimes difficult to find book resources in the media center or your home school library, so there are a couple other options.
    - First, check with your local public libraries.
    - Second, check your lab textbook.
    - Third, you can obtain a temporary library card from Kent State University (Salem or East Liverpool Branch). Just stop by the university library with your driver's license or state ID. Then you have access to books on OhioLINK which allows you to borrow books from any college in the state of Ohio.

Where to find Journals or Magazines?

- You can look in the following places for journals or magazines:
    - Media Center
    - Local Libraries
    - Kent State Libraries
    - Your lab instructor

Other ideas for sources

- Interviews
- Videos
- TV shows
- Surveys
- Trade Manuals
- Encyclopedias
- Music

- Newspapers
- Almanacs

Final Reaction to completing senior projects

Any Questions?