

SENIOR EXHIBITION 2007-2008

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SENIOR EXHIBITION is a two-trimester course required for graduation. It allows students time to develop a meaningful **essential question**, write an in-depth **research paper** exploring that question, implement a **service learning project**, and present their learning in a **public exhibition**.

COMPONENTS:

Essential Question

In order to engage in an authentic inquiry process, students will choose a complex, relevant, and sustainable essential question.

Research

Students will move well beyond their initial knowledge of a topic, and show new learning throughout the process. Research must be both text-based and experiential (interviews, internships, observations, etc.).

Context and Community

Students will connect their learning to real world applications. This entails working with community members outside of Riverdale who are somehow engaged with the work the students are researching. Each student will have an outside expert to help direct them in their research. Student will connect their senior service with their exhibition.

Scholarship

Exhibitions must be designed to show deep critical thinking and intellectual growth. This will require integrating several academic disciplines into the project as well as considering multiple perspectives on the topic.

Public Presentation

Students will present their findings in a public forum outside of school.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will work towards:

- Increased mastery, competency, and a sense of power that comes with understanding a subject deeply.
- Energy for new interests, enthusiasm about learning, and ability to solve problems creatively.
- Ability to use interpersonal skills to advance student's individual learning objectives, project, knowledge, and research.
- Critical thinking about a wide variety of sources.

ASSESSMENT

Each student will receive a process grade and a product grade. Combined these grades will determine the final assessment of the project. Students may earn the following commendations on their work:

DM: Does not meet minimum requirements (student will graduate with a state diploma, but not a Riverdale diploma). Student has not met the minimum requirements of the project. Efforts have been inconsistent, use of time has been poor, response to feedback has been limited, and both product and process fall short of expectations.

M: Student has successfully met all the requirements of the project. Both product and process show solid progress, effort, and depth of understanding.

E: Exceeds (Riverdale diploma with distinction.) Student exceeds the expectations by demonstrating superior commitment, scholarship, community involvement, subject integration, and mastery of their topic.

GRADING

Progress report and trimester grades will be based on class work, drafts, projects, participation, self evaluation and goal-setting. Students will be required to log their progress and keep records of their work.

POLICIES

- Water and unprocessed food allowed in class.
- Earphones may be used only during individual work time.
- No Internet use on Tuesdays or Thursdays.
- We strive to create a supportive and positive classroom environment.
- My expectation is that individuals working in the classroom and outside the classroom will use their time well, keep distractions to a minimum, do what they say they will do, make mature choices, and represent Riverdale seniors with distinction.

Failure to abide by the policies will result in limitations on freedom and student choice for the class. Individual class participation grades may suffer as well.