

Senior Project Overview: The 10,000 Foot View

What is it?

Your Senior project is an in-depth study of a focused research topic, coupled with a self-designed project that adds action and audience to the academic research and writing. Senior Project has three inter-related parts.

1. **PART 1: The Paper.** The research paper promotes high level research and writing skills, intellectual discovery, and creativity. It provides students with an opportunity to engage in deep research within a topic of their choosing, under the guidance of a Senior Project advisor (typically a teacher at this school). This leads to a major piece of formally presented and structured writing.
2. **PART 2: The Presentation and Defense.** You are going to give a dynamic, engaging, and informative 15-18 minute presentation of your research findings to an audience. This presentation must outline your research and clearly state your findings. Your presentation will be followed by a 10 minute question and answer period during which you will defend your methodology and conclusions.
3. **PART 3: The Project.** Now we think beyond the paper, into how you actually apply this knowledge. You need to design a project for yourself that relates to your research topic. You could make proposals to city council, create a gallery show, put on a concert, build a machine...your imagination is the limit here. The goal is to create something that has an authentic purpose and a real audience. In addition to the audience you are designing for, these will also be exhibited at a Senior Project Exhibition sometime in May.

Why This is Awesome

For the first year ever, you are being given the unique opportunity to design your own project, from start to finish. Now is the chance for you to follow your passion and to take a deep dive into something you love. We encourage you to think big, to get ambitious, and to do something that is truly meaningful to you. This should be your capstone experience here at Animas—make us all proud!



Be this guy!

Not this guy.

Assessment

Remember, to graduate you **MUST** pass Senior Project! This means that you must receive a passing grade on each separate component- the paper, the presentation, and the final project. Doing a fantastic job in one area will **NOT** make up for a sub-par performance in another area.

General Timeline

Date	Title	Description
August	Senior Project Intro	Initial project rollout and overview.
September	Senior Project Brainstorm	Massive brainstorming session to generate amazing ideas!
October/November	Project Proposals	Sometime in these two months you will have about a week in Humanities class dedicated to developing your research question and project proposal
December 11-15	Proposals and POL Prep	In the week before POLs, you'll be refining your project proposals and preparing to present them for your POL.
December 16-18	POLs	Your POL this year revolves around your project proposal, and reflecting on how your career at AHS has prepared you to execute your proposal. You will present your research question and your project idea, and your proposal will be critiqued by a panel made up of teachers, students, and parents. At the end of your POL, your proposal will either be accepted, or sent back to you for revision.
January/February	Research, Notes, Outlining	During this time period, you will start the process of researching, organizing information, meeting with your advisor, and building your argument. This will be done in Humanities.
March 7-25	Writing Intensive	During these three weeks, you will be working intensively on the writing process of your senior project. Walls between senior classes will be dropped, and you will have giant chunks of time to write, write, and then write some more.
March 21-25	Presentation and Defense Preparation	During this time, you will also be preparing for your presentation and defense of your senior project.
March 7-25	Senior Project Launch	During this time you will also be launching the action aspect of your senior project.
April 5-6	Final Presentation Prep	This is the last chance to make your presentation amazing!
April 7-15	Presentations	Time to defend your research and ideas.
April 7-May 11	Senior Project Time	Do your projects! Put your proposals into action!
May 2-11	Exhibition Prep	Finish your projects, and get them ready for Exhibition.
May 12	Senior Exhibition	Display your projects to the school community!
May 23-25	Senior Retreat	Camping and Reflection
May 27	GRADUATION!	Walk that stage!

