

# Senior Project: Overview and Discussion

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## 8:30-9:00 Senior Project Overview

1. What is Senior Project?
  - a. Research/Thesis
  - b. TED Talk
  - c. Project
2. Timeline
  - a. Semester 1:
    - i. Brainstorm/idea generation
    - ii. December: Initial general research
    - iii. POL: Research question and project idea proposal
  - b. Semester 2:
    - i. January/February: Research and Writing
    - ii. March: TED Talks
    - iii. April/May: Project
3. New Supports this Year:
  - a. Science support with Curt
  - b. Math support with Kyle in Math 4
  - c. More time in December for initial research/POL Prep
4. What's changing this year:
  - a. Electives run all second semester
  - b. Required to be in all classes throughout January, February, March
  - c. More physical time on campus during Senior Project
5. Q&A with students

## 9:00-10:30 Paseo and Discussion

**Intro activity:** Going to think about you as a student and how that relates to senior project in a variety of different ways. Goal is to get you thinking deeply about you and how you relate to this project.

### Initial Brainstorm (20 minutes)

1. Draw a web chart with name in center, and descriptors connecting to your name. (Lori shows example) Four quadrants:
  - a. Emotional characteristics
  - b. Intellectual traits
  - c. Long term goals/dreams
  - d. Behavior/work habits

### **Paseo (20 minutes)**

1. Paseo set up. Split into 3 groups of 20 each. Can go outside or to other classrooms. Line up for random split.
2. Paseo Questions:
  - a. Which trait would most people know that you agree with?
  - b. Which trait are you most proud of?
  - c. Which trait has most worked against you in your education?
  - d. What trait have you grown most in the past year?
  - e. What's a dream you have that seems totally unattainable?

### **Discussion Groups (45 minutes)**

1. Review Zen text for 5-10 minutes. Find one line that spoke to you.
2. Spirit Read (each student shares their line)
3. Discuss patterns, bring into Socratic seminar
4. Seminar Questions:
  - a. You're done. You've graduated. Your senior year was wildly successful. What does this mean? What did you accomplish? How did you grow?
  - b. How do you measure success outside of high school?
  - c. Knowing who you are as a learner, and that senior year is an important transitional time in your life, what do you see yourself doing/accomplishing? What are your goals for your...
    - i. Academics?
    - ii. Senior Project?
    - iii. Relationships?
    - iv. College/other life goals?
  - d. What are you bringing to our school/community/classes? How are you going to contribute this year?
  - e. How much are you subject to the "mule mentality" (paragraph 8)? What impact does this have on you? Where does this come from?
  - f. How motivated are you by grades? How motivated are you by knowledge? What implications does this have for your senior project?
  - g. Make sure to note that senior project itself is ungraded...how then, can we connect senior project to ideas in this text. Inspiring? Terrifying? Both?
  - h. Last line: "It would be the real thing." What do you need to do to make sure your Senior Project is the "real thing?"
  - i. The world outside of school is one that exists without grades. You succeed or fail based on your track record and reputation as well as a list of your accomplishments, not your GPA. How can the final senior project provide you with an artifact or story that will propel you forward outside of school?
  - j. How can your senior year help you make connections in the community, locally and abroad? How can those connections help you after your high school career is over?

## **10:30-11:30 Jess College Talk**

Jess has all seniors for college stuff in the commons.

## **11:30-12:30 Lunch**

Kurt orders pizza for our alumni panel

## **12:30-1:15 Alumni Panel**

1. Confirmed: Keely, Drew, Magic Nick, Derek, Connor, Ellen
2. Maybe: Lyle

## **1:15-1:30**

Review of plan for tomorrow, reflection, send off.