

Senior Project Brainstorm Process: Phase 1

What is this?

It's time to start thinking about your senior project! The first step in this is having some ideas. Tragically, this is not something we can help you with much—you need to take some time this weekend and get inspired...go to the woods, journal, read, talk to your family/friends. Do whatever you need to do to generate ideas.

What do I need to do?

For the first part of this process, you need to come up with **THREE** ideas. These could be research questions, project ideas, or just a general theme for your research. These could be variations on a theme, or totally different directions.

For each of your **three** ideas, you need to include the following:

1. Your question/project idea/theme.
2. What do you already know about this?
3. Why is this compelling/interesting to you?
4. Why do you want to investigate this/create this?
5. What angles do you intend to take? How would you approach this topic/question?
6. What are you unsure about/what problems do you anticipate?

When is this due? **Wednesday, October 5th**

You must have this with you, handwritten or typed, on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5th** at the start of class. If typed, you should also share it with your Humanities teacher. If not typed, turn it in after the discussion.

What happens next Wednesday: Idea Generation Discussion

Next Wednesday in Humanities, you'll be meeting in small groups to do an initial tune, and to expand your brainstorm. The purpose of this is **NOT** to come up with your final idea- it's to push your thinking in new, unexpected, and different directions, so that you have more ideas than you did when you walked in. We'll give you more details about how this will work on Wednesday.

Senior Project Ideas: Phase 2

Okay, I have a crap-ton of ideas. Now what?

You now have three things that you need to do.

1. Reflection
2. Initial Research
3. Schedule a conference with a Senior teacher (Lori, Ashley, Kyle, Kurt, or Britt)

Read on, dear student! More details await!

Requirement 1: Reflection

Due: Before conference

Now that you've generated ideas and worked them over with a group, you need to type responses to the following reflection questions. This **MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE YOU SCHEDULE YOUR CONFERENCE.**

1. What feedback or ideas did you get from the group discussion?
2. What new directions is this taking you in?
3. What is your leading idea at this point for your research and your project? Describe it, and why you would like to head in this direction.

Requirement 2: Initial Research

Due: Before conference

Okay, now it's time for you to work. In the month of October, Model Senate homework will be light. Consider this your standing homework for October. This **MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE YOU SCHEDULE YOUR CONFERENCE.**

Go explore at least 3 sources about your topic. These could be books, documentaries, websites, TED Talks, Wikipedia...pretty much anything. The goal here is to familiarize yourself with the basics of your topic, so you know if the research direction will be fruitful or not. For **EACH SOURCE**, take the following notes. You will need these for your conference.

1. What was the source? (url, book/movie title, author)
2. What did you learn from this source?
3. What new questions did this raise for you?
4. How does this impact where you want to take your research?

Requirement 3: Senior Teacher Conference

Due: Before 11/18/16

Finally, you need to [schedule a conference](#) with one senior teacher (Ashley, Kurt, Lori, Kyle, or Britt). Sign up under the teacher's name on the sheet linked above. Try to sign up for a conference with a teacher who can best advise you...for example, if you're doing something on aerodynamics, Lori is probably **NOT** your best choice! These **MUST** be complete before Thanksgiving break. Plan ahead, sign up early! **Remember, you MUST HAVE YOUR REFLECTION AND INITIAL RESEARCH DONE TO HAVE THE CONFERENCE!**