

**SENIOR PROJECT: WHAT TO EXPECT!**  
**Santa Susana High School**

**Four Components of Senior Project (The Four P's):**

- 1) **Paper:** -Your research paper will be part of your senior English course and is part of your overall Senior Project grade.  
-The topic of your paper must relate to the topic of your field work.  
-The research you complete will prepare you with the knowledge you need to complete fieldwork, create a product and help you in your presentation.
- 2) **Product/Fieldwork:** -The project consists of at least 20 hours of fieldwork as well as the product you create as a result of your field work.  
-Your fieldwork / creation of your product should be *independent* effort. If your project is an extension of high school coursework, it must be above and beyond your class work.  
-If your fieldwork involves an internship, the number of intern hours cannot be more than ten of the twenty hours.  
-You must choose a mentor who has expertise in your area to guide you in your project.  
-Your fieldwork should reflect a significant “learning stretch.”

*What is a “learning stretch?” Understanding something new or taking a current skill to a higher level*

- 3) **Portfolio:** - The portfolio will reflect the connection between your research paper and fieldwork  
- Portfolio will contain the following items:

**Title Page**

- ~ Title of the Project
- ~ Student’s Name
- ~ Research Paper Topic

**Table of Contents** *listing each of the following:*

**Introduction**

- ~ Letter of Introduction (business letter form)
- ~ Résumé
- ~ Sr. Project Overview

**Research Paper** (graded)

**Fieldwork**

- ~ Fieldwork/Project Log
- ~ Letter of Recommendation/Regret **written by your Mentor**
- ~ Mentor Verification form
- ~ Thank You Letter to Mentor **written by the senior**

**Letter of Reflection**

**Appendix**

- ~ Application/Approval Contract
- ~ Integrity Commitment form
- ~ Mentor Commitment form

- Your completed portfolio will be given to the judges prior to your presentation.
- Your portfolio will be something you can show future employers, interview committees, or college entrance committees.

\*Including the completion of a Senior Project on college applications can *BENEFIT* you!

- 4) **Presentation:** - Deliver a 7-10 minute presentation to a panel of judges, consisting of SSHS faculty, students, and community members.
- Supplement your presentation with some type of visual aid, illustrating the work you have done and what you have accomplished / created. This can be a model of your project, a PowerPoint presentation, a video/DVD, etc. (PowerPoint presentations where appropriate are highly recommended.)
  - Presentation will show the relationship between your research and your fieldwork.
  - Dress professionally, as if you were in a place of business for a job interview.

**This is a snapshot of Senior Project. There is much more information still to come!**