

Senior projects for dummies

BY TIM TYLER

It's a situation almost every senior finds himself in: year after year. After hours upon hours of research in the library and dozens of interview questions, you begin to think your reaching the final stages for completion of your senior project. Then you realize that you've only begun, here is some advice from the "experts" to help you along the way.

Let's start at the beginning, what is a senior project? "It's a required research project of choice," said Mr. David Riddle, one of the senior transitions teachers.

To be more basic, a senior project is an oral/written researched topic to be presented in front of a community in hopes of persuading them to agree with your opinion.

"Each project has four components: 1. A written research paper. 2. A product or demonstration of what was learned. 3. Presentation of what was learned. 4. Processfolio. (documented work on the project through out the nine weeks)," explained Ms. Jennifer Mattingly, the only other senior transitions teacher.

The next step is to choose a topic.

Music is one of the more common topics chosen, Riddle explained. According to Mattingly another common topic is career related choices, such as projects related to the hospital or teaching.

"Last semester one of my students researched the responsibility of primary teaching," Mattingly explained. "She developed a lesson for a primary class and video taped the lesson that she taught in the school. I think that she still wants to pursue teaching."

Senior Shena McKinney ex-



Drafting a proposal is just one stage of the senior project process. Above, senior Coty Reams receives assistance from teacher Jennifer Mattingly. (photo by Tim Tyler)

plained her topic as being fun. "I picked a topic that I wanted to pursue. My project was titled 'The ABC's of Primary Teaching'."

Just as McKinney has done, all students should choose a topic that interests them, but not one they know too much about.

"Choose four to five topics then narrow it from there. Just don't choose one you know too much about. Make sure you can dig for the information needed," explained Riddle after mentioning that "too often students choose a topic that they know a lot about and they don't research it at all."

Use effective and exciting visual aids.

"I used a power point presentation on my project to make it stand out," said senior Gretchen Phelps. McKinney recorded herself as she taught the lesson that she prepared for the primary students.

Don't waste time!

"Seniors, dedicate nine weeks to this project and it will be finished," Riddle said.

"Seniors, don't procrastinate and put things off to the last minute. Remember, research paper, processfolio, documentation," Mattingly stressed.

Students should take a word of advice: spend your time wisely. As my grandfather once said, "If a job is worth doing, then it's worth doing right!"

From car to inspirational speaker, ideas for Project Graduation wide and varied

BY ROBERT KIRBY

As graduation approaches, senior parents are starting to plan and organize Project Graduation, the seniors' last night at the high school as a class.

The night is filled with games, contests, and refreshments. It starts at 9:00 of the night of graduation and ends at 6:00 the next morning.

Last year some of the games were similar to casino games and some of the contests were jump rope and a male beauty contest. Playing these games can win students ROCKET BUCKS, which can be used to buy donated items at the auction towards the end of the night. Also, there are drawings for prizes and cash throughout the night.

"No one goes home empty handed," says Ms. Darlene Mays.

Project Graduation is organized by the parents, though the school

has a few teachers/staff members that help in the organizing of the event.

"Project Graduation is solely a parent ran event. The more more parents that get involved the better that it has been in the past," said Mr. David Riddle.

The parents put it together, but what would students most like to see? Many would like to see a car as a door prize, but some have different ideas.

"I would like to see an inspirational speaker," said senior John Bray. "Someone to make us realize what we are going into is not a game."

Some students are concerned about more material things they can use for the rest of their life.

"I would like for them to give away scholarship money," said senior Gretchen Phelps.

Senior year no different from the rest

BY BLAKE ARNOLD

Senior year is supposed to be easy. Kick back, relax, and enjoy the ride. Well, that's what most of the seniors this year thought it would be like.

"I expected my senior year to be easy with only cake classes," said Adam Collins.

Brad Bussell thought he would have "only easy classes, no homework, and be the first one out of the parking lot."

"In reality, this year has been just the opposite," he said.

Senior year is supposed to be kind of difficult and prepare students for the future, whether that be college or a job. With classes like Transitions created to complete such a task they may be good in

theory but have a few shortcomings in practice.

"It's pointless," said Matt Mullins. "It should be used to prepare us for the real world but is really just filled with busy work."

In fact senior year falls short of almos' everyone's expectations on the amount of fun and the work level that the teachers place on seniors.

"Actually it's no different than the other three years up here," said Mullins.

Not everyone agrees.

"It's pretty hard when you end up taking five credits in a four

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