

Senior Project

Why are so many schools starting Senior Projects?

Credits and grade percentages continue to be an important graduation requirement, but more and more employers and schools require you to show that you can actually do something with your education. To help prepare for these situations, Connecticut schools are creating Senior Projects.

You are the first class to graduate from Tourtellotte with a Senior Project opportunity. The Senior Project reflects real world skills that revolve around your interests and future plans.

Those of you planning to go on to a trade school or four year college should consider this project a major portion of your future application to school. This is especially important if you feel your SAT/ACT scores or GPA do not reflect what you are capable of, as many schools will weigh a project against these scores.

A project can also be practice for a chosen career, especially in a trade that expects you to start with the knowledge you need such as auto repair or plumbing contractors.

What makes it a “Senior Project” besides doing it Senior year?

The Senior Project is not a classroom assignment. It is a self chosen project that should produce something that is personally meaningful and important to you and your future.

For example, if you wish to work on dirt bikes, you could take pictures and videos of yourself rebuilding a ruined engine. If you wish to be a doctor, you could create a video document dissecting a fetal pig as an after school activity. If you wish to be a visual artist, create a website gallery of your paintings.

A Senior Project is anything that interests you that shows you are genuinely (no “fronting”) interested in, and dedicated to, a particular thing.

How to present your Senior Project for graduation

To be cleared for graduation, your Senior Project will need to include the following:

1. A research paper explaining what your project is about and how you accomplished it.
2. The actual project itself (videos, journals, photos, recordings, poster boards, etc.)
3. A portfolio format containing 1 & 2 to organize all documents
4. A presentation of your paper and project documents.

Turn Over for Planning Guidelines →

Planning – these questions are meant to help you think about how to make an idea into a reality

A) What are your major interests? (Ex.: Flash animation, makeup application, car and truck modification, professional dancing)

B) Considering your interests, in what way could you best show off your interests? (Ex.: if you most love skateboarding, teach someone else how to ride; if you love hairdressing, fix up your own and a group of friend's hair like for prom, but then just go to a movie)

C) How can you document, or record your work? (Ex.: take pictures of each step in creating assembling a computer from components; take videos of yourself applying nail polish to another person; record an MP3 of yourself playing guitar to a song that you wrote; write a journal that explains each page of a comic book that you drew)

D) What materials or places would you need to document yourself demonstrating these skills? (Ex.: Skateboarding: skate park, video camera; Building a weatherproof shed: nail gun, air compressor, lumber, plans; Chef at a cookout for baseball team: grill, donated food, picnic tables)

E) Who do you need help from? (Ex.: English teacher to edit novel, uncle who works at Home Depot to check building plans, Simon Cowell to give feedback on singing)
