**NAMPA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SENIOR PROJECT HANDBOOK**

**Revised 2015**

**Purpose Statement**

Students in the Nampa School District will explore their plans for life. They will research their education and career plans, developing an informative essay and presentation to report their findings. The senior project allows students to demonstrate their ability to apply their skills and educational experiences as they plan their future. Our district Senior Project is aligned with Idaho Core Standards.

**Rationale from the Idaho State Department of Education (ISDE)**

The Senior Project is part of the High School Redesign efforts in 2006. Research indicates that it is a strategy that helps to make the senior year more engaging for students which influences senior dropout rates as well as go-on rates. At that time, many school districts were already requiring students to complete an oral and written project during their senior year to graduate from high school. Because of this, the language in the Administrative Rule is purposefully vague so that districts have freedom in defining it as fits their student population and practice.

**Participants**

Every senior completes their Senior Project in the 1st semester of their senior year. Senior Project is distinct from any projects students may complete in Capstone courses. Senior Projects will take the place of Capstone Projects, though projects will still be completed in Capstone courses. Please see your Capstone teacher with questions.

**Requirements**

**The Senior Project has two parts:**

* Informative essay
* Oral presentation with multi-media component

**Informative Essay Requirements**

* 5 sources minimum:
  + 1 primary source (interview)
  + 4 secondary sources—credible and scholarly
* 5-7 pages, excluding title page and references
* Format appropriate to discipline (MLA, APA, Chicago)
* Common informative essay rubric
* Students who do not meet proficiency by the deadline will be reported to school administration for further action; please note that this is a scored component of Senior English and a graduation requirement

**Oral Presentation Requirements**

* All students will present in December (April for Semester 2 arrivals)
* Multi-media component is required (PowerPoint, Prezi, Keynote, etc.)
* 7-10 minutes in length, excluding judges' questions
* Common presentation rubric
* Presentations must meet proficiency on all elements of the rubric to pass
* Students who do not meet proficiency will re-present on the make-up day in April

**Rubrics**

Rubrics can are attached.

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

1. Why did Senior Project change?

To align with Idaho Core Standards and eliminate confusion, Nampa School District has streamlined and standardized the process.

1. What do I do if I already started my 15 volunteer hours for my Senior Project?

These hours are no longer required but are a great learning experience and may help you write your informative essay.

1. What if I am in a Capstone class?

Senior Project will be the graduation requirement for all seniors instead of a Capstone Project.

1. Can I change my topic now, even though I wrote my Proposal last year?

Yes, your Senior English teacher will explain the details at the beginning of the school year.

1. Do I still need an Advisor?

No.

1. Do I still need a community mentor?

No; however, you will be required to interview a community member with expertise in your area of research.

1. Do I have to do a Portfolio?

No; however, you may choose to take pictures or gather artifacts to enhance your presentation.

1. Do I have to track/log any project hours?

No.