

Project Overview

Personal Project Resources

Rationale:

To increase the value of the project experience and to encourage quality work from all of our students, we have created a single Personal Project experience*.

The Personal Project will be completed by all students during the sophomore year and will meet the graduation requirement for the state of Pennsylvania.

PA Chapter 4 states:

"The purpose of the project is to assure that students are able to apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information and communicate a significant knowledge and understanding."

Credit:

Successful completion of the Personal Project will earn 1.0 credit toward Leechburg Area and PA graduation requirements.

Three P's to Pass the Personal Project (see Resources for details)

- **Paper:** Between 2500 and 4500 total words. (not counting supporting documents) Use your Process Journal to help you write it.
- **Product:** The actual thing you created. If it was an event, experience, performance or something not able to be brought to school, turn in proof such as photos or a video of it.
- **Presentation:** All students will present their projects to an audience of evaluators. The presentation must be no less than 7 minutes and no more than 10. It must be oral and include a visual aid of some kind.

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Mentors:

Students will be given the opportunity to work with an interested and qualified adult who will mentor the student throughout the project experience. Mentors can be chosen by the student, with permission from the parent, or assigned by the school. Students may decline the use of a mentor. In all cases, mentors should share expertise in the project topic as a resource and guide, but the project must be the student's own work. School-assigned mentors will assist in the project evaluation and grading. Outside mentors are advisors only.

***Grading:**

Personal Projects will be scored against a rubric for each of 8 criteria. *Projects scoring a B or better will earn an Honors designation on the transcript and the .06 added value that accompanies Honors courses.*

Failure to complete the project has serious consequences. The failing grade (F) will be recorded on the transcript and students will be required to complete the requirement the following year.

DEADLINES

Upon APPROVAL of the project topic, students are to begin the **research** they will need to know what they are doing and to develop the context of the project – the background of the topic, its current status, vocabulary appropriate to the topic, appropriate methods, etc. (see [What Do You Mean by Research....](#)for a detailed explanation of this component)

DECEMBER 4 - AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AT LEAST 7 SOURCES IN MLA FORM IS DUE .

Sources should include variety, i.e. books, articles, websites, people, newspapers, organization literature, documentaries, movies, instructional videos, samples of the product genre, etc. NO WIKIPEDIA.

MARCH 24 - A DRAFT OF THE PAPER IS DUE

APRIL 7 – DRAFT RETURNED TO STUDENTS FOR REVISION

APRIL 15 - FINAL DUE DATE FOR PAPER AND PRODUCT (Late penalty is 2 points per week until April 30. After April 30, no projects will be accepted)

ORAL PRESENTATIONS WILL BE SCHEDULED DURING MAY - SPECIFIC DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED

What Do I Need to Do?

Because of the diversity of talent areas represented in the Personal Projects, there is no one single way to put your work together. Most students, however, arrange all the *required elements* in a binder or portfolio. All *elements* listed below must be included, but students should organize their work in a way that is neat, logical and aesthetically pleasing, to best showcase their efforts. (Criterion E)

Your project must include all of these things:

- Title Page and Table of Contents (**Criterion A, E**)
- **Goal statement** and explanation of purpose for project (**Criterion A**)
- **Planning** document(s) (**Criterion A**)
- Introduction to the topic including the background **research** that explains the project and why it was chosen (**Criterion B and C**)
- An explanation of the process followed – techniques or strategies used, including vocabulary of the topic. Tell “the story” of your project from beginning to end, including the HOW and WHY of the steps you followed (**Criterion D**)
- Your **reflection** on both the process and product, a self evaluation (Criterion F)
- **Bibliography** - you must include parenthetical citations for research you discuss in your paper (**Criterion B**)

Include at the end of all these elements a WORD COUNT of your paper. Your paper must be between 2500 and 4500 words. (not counting the **Appendix** or the **Process Journal**)

- The Product – the actual creation or if the project is an event or service, evidence of it (photos, video, testimonials) (**Criterion D**)
- **Appendix** of Supporting Documentation - things like receipts, correspondence, drafts, sketches, permission slips, advertising, flyers, photos, rosters, budgets, questionnaires, surveys, etc. (**Criterion D, E, F**)

SEPARATELY - A **PROCESS JOURNAL** (the notebook you kept about your progress)

**FORMAL PRESENTATION - an oral explanation of your work including a visual aid.
(Criterion G)**

Evaluation and Grading

Personal Projects will be scored against a rubric for each of 8 criteria. *Projects scoring a B or higher will earn an Honors designation on the transcript and the .06 GPA added value that accompanies Honors courses. Late penalty is 2 points per week after April 15 until April 30. No projects will be accepted after April 30. One bonus point will be awarded for projects turned in before April 15.*

Scoring Criteria:

A. Identification of Goal, Purpose and Planning	5 Points
B. Collection of Resources	5 Points
C. Analysis and Use of Research Information	10 Points
D. Choice of Techniques and Quality of Product	10 Points
E. Organization and Quality of Written Work	5 Points
F. Reflection on Process and Outcome	10 Points
G. Presentation to Audience	5 Points
H. Personal Engagement and Work Ethic	5 Points

Scoring Rubric

55 total

Grade	Score
A+	55
A	53-54
A-	50-52
B+	46-49
B	42-45
B-	36-41
C+	30-35
C	22-29
C-	16-22
D	11-15
F	0-10

Oral Presentation

At the conclusion of the Personal Project experience, all students must prepare an oral presentation about their work. This presentation should include the following components:

- **a summary** of what the project was about (goal, expected outcome and purpose)
- **the high points** of the experience (including problems overcome)
- **what new things were learned** as a result of both the topic and the experience
- **a visual aid** of some kind to support the oral content

The entire presentation is to be no fewer than 7 minutes and no more than 10. It will be delivered in front of an audience of teachers and administrators, including the student's mentor (if the mentor is a staff person).

Answer these questions: What did you do? Why did you do it? What happened along the way? How did it turn out? What did you learn about your topic? What did you learn about yourself? Show us something that represents your work: photos, a video, a chart, the actual creation, a model, a pattern, a blueprint, a webpage, a powerpoint,