**Senior Project Information**

**Congratulations!** You have completed your first trimester of English 12….and that means it is finally time to begin your senior project. This project will be a culmination project that requires you to use all of your expert English skills acquired throughout your school career, as well as participation in our community.

The entire project, fully completed, will be due on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. **Late projects will NOT be accepted. If you plan to be absent that day, you must make arrangements ahead of time to get your project turned in on time. Failure to complete the project will result in an automatic trimester failure.**

**Step One: Volunteer Project Selection**

You should select a volunteer organization which is of interest to you to be the focus of your project. Here are some ideas:

1. Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Monroe County
2. March of Dimes
3. Muscular Dystrophy Association
4. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
5. Habitat for Humanity, Monroe County
6. American Cancer Society
7. Monroe Humane Society
8. United Way
9. Senior Citizens/Meals on Wheels
10. Monroe County Library Association
11. Any church volunteer organized project
12. Hospital volunteers
13. Child care volunteers
14. Homeless shelters/Soup kitchen
15. Ronald McDonald House
16. American Red Cross
17. Kiwanis
18. Food Closet
19. Camp Storer

If you have a question as to the organization on which you would like to focus, please see me.

**Step Two: Research Your Organization**

**You will write a research paper in which you will include:**

1. **A professional-looking cover that includes, in the following order:**
2. Title
3. Your Name
4. Class
5. Instructor Name
6. Date

All of this information should be double-spaced and centered in 12 point font, Times New Roman.

1. **A Formal Research Paper that will include:**
2. The history of your organization (national and/or local)
3. The organizational pattern of the organization
4. The purpose and mission of the organization
5. The resources and funding of the organization
6. Your paper should be typed, double-spaced and written in 12-point font, Times New Roman
7. Paper should be two pages in length.
8. **A Formal Interview**
9. The interview questions should be planned ahead of time, based on your research, and the questions and answers typed, printed, and included as an appendix to your paper (at the end).
10. You will need to make an appointment to meet or talk with your interviewee at his or her convenience.
11. Please be prepared with at least 8-10 good questions! Also, remember that you will be representing Dundee High School as well as yourself in your preparation.
12. **Works Cited Page:** When writing your research paper, you will be referring to sources where you have obtained your information. Thus, you will need to use proper MLA parenthetical citations. As a result, it will be necessary to include a works cited page. This should be a list of all your sources, in alphabetical order, including all MLA citation information, and should be correctly formatted in MLA style.
13. **Correctness:** Your research paper should follow the proper format (12 Font Times New Roman, double-spaced), have correct spelling and grammar, and be arranged in the correct order. Remember, neatness counts! **Your paper should include proper MLA formatted parenthetical citations when you quote from your sources.**

**Step Three: Arrange to volunteer some time to your organization**

1. **Volunteer Hours:**
2. The optimum number of hours to spend volunteering is 8 hours over the trimester. These hours may be accomplished in a number of shorter segments or fewer longer segments.
3. Your hours should be documented on the form provided and signed by an official representative of the organization
4. **Volunteer Journal:**
5. You should keep a journal of your activities and reactions to your volunteer experience.
6. Your journal should be typed in the correct format and submitted with your project paper.

**Step Four: Formal Conclusion/Reflection Presentation**

1. You will prepare and present a summary and reflection on your volunteer experience.
2. This can be in the form of a video presentation, multi-media presentation, power point, or speech.
3. It should include some visuals of your experience as well as your reaction to your experience.
4. Some questions you might include would be:

* What did you learn about the organization that you didn’t know before?
* What did you learn about yourself when you had to participate in this organization?
* How was your understanding of volunteer work broadened by working on this project?
* How did your appreciation of this project and volunteer organization increase as you worked?
* What is the most striking thing you learned/gained by doing this project?

**Library Schedule:**

You will have five days in the library (one every other week) to assist you in finding the information needed to complete your paper as well as creating your presentation. I expect that you will use this time to do just that! If I get the impression that these days are being wasted, days will be eliminated as necessary.