

2019-2020 Senior Project Standards

Welcome to your senior project! Completion of this project is the ultimate requirement for graduation from Minnesota New Country School. This project should be hard. You may fail in some aspect of it. Go forth and be bold in your planning, for failure is where the learning begins.

1. Your project should be original in nature and not a rehash of a previous project.
2. Your project will push your limits in terms of depth, breadth, quality, and creativity. **It should excite you a lot, and maybe scare you a little.**
3. You will attend and participate in a minimum of two peer project feedback sessions.
4. In order for Senior Team to approve your project, **you will need to write, practice, and present a formal 60-second project proposal** presentation or “pitch”. Your pitch will explain all elements of your senior project in a concise manner. The quality of your pitch and accompanying documents will determine if your project is approved or not. (See the project proposal checklist for more information)
5. Your project will include a significant ‘producible’: each student should create something original and authentic for their project. Examples include making a film, building a complicated model, restoring a vehicle, building a motorcycle, writing a play, developing a business plan, creating a fashion line, etc. **This should be the bulk of your project.**
6. Your project will include a 7-10 page paper. It will be of high quality. The topic should be interesting to you and should attempt to answer a driving question.
7. Your project will need the expertise of at least one community expert. This person shall not be a staff member or family member. More experts are probably better...
8. Your project will include a community element. **This is something that takes your project outside of the MNCS community and family, and is a benefit to the community.** *Running an experience Friday is not an acceptable community piece unless you coordinate major contributions from people outside of MNCS who are not family members.* The online community by itself is not acceptable; there needs to be face to face interaction with real humans.
9. Your project may include some form of planning for life after MNCS.
10. There is a detailed, results-focused rubric that will be used to evaluate your project at check-ins and at finalization. In the end, **how your project meets the expectations outlined on your rubric will determine completion and credit, not the hours logged.**
11. When the challenging aspects are complete, it’s time to reflect. Your project reflection should be about 5 pages, and should reflect on your senior project process, and on your MNCS experience as a whole.

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Respect and Responsibility:

12. Attend all meetings and workshops. If you cannot attend, inform your senior team beforehand.
13. Meet deadlines. Getting behind will not set you up for success.
14. Your project shall be at minimum 300 quality hours. That being said, hours are not everything. 500 hours with a poor product and poor documentation will not result in 5 credits. Likewise, 300 hours with a great product, excellent documentation, and a high rubric score will be well rewarded.
15. A total of 50 hours from combined outside experiences can be counted toward your project. For example, if you are taking a PSEO course on psychology, and your project is focused around psychology, you may only count 50 hours of coursework towards the project. Other activities limited to 50 hours would include scouting, civil air patrol, 4H, police or military explorers, etc. When in doubt, ask your senior team.
16. Each student will do a 20 minute public presentation about their project. Every senior who has graduated from MNCS has met and survived this requirement; you will too.
17. Attend all senior presentations. Support your fellow seniors.
18. Due to the fact that many seniors are not always at school because of PSEO and senior project work, communicating with all seniors can be challenging. In order for us to communicate effectively, each student will provide the senior team with an email that they are responsible for checking on a regular basis. If you fail to check your email and miss important information you are responsible for the consequences.
19. Last and most important, if at any time you are struggling with your project, lost in the woods, in need of ideas or inspiration, talk to your advisor or your senior team members ASAP! They're all here to help you succeed.



Summary of Mandatory Elements of a Senior Project:

1. Evidence of brainstorming/project planning - Load documents or photos into Headrush.
2. Peer reviews of proposal, project, and presentation - Save worksheets from peer sessions and upload photos or scans of worksheets into headrush.
3. Formal, approved project proposal, typed into Google Doc template and uploaded into a Headrush proposal.
4. Approved Rubric - Typed in google docs and uploaded into headrush proposal.
5. Finalized Project Paper w/drafts - Final should be typed in a google doc and uploaded into Headrush proposal.
6. A community piece and corresponding evidence uploaded into Headrush - this CANNOT be an Experience Friday. (This does not mean you can't do an experience Friday as part of your project, but your project must involve interaction with the community outside of MNCS and your family. Volunteering, fundraising, etc.)
7. A Project Presentation, presented on a Senior Presentation Night or other setting with approval from Senior Team.
8. Consistent documentation of time and learning - Timelogs, photos, journals, videos, etc. Loaded into Headrush proposal.
9. Evidence of collaboration with a community expert - photos, notes, videos, etc. A community expert cannot be a member of staff or a member of your own family.