



Senior Project Purpose and Prompt 2009-2010

Purpose:

The purpose of the project is twofold:

- To give students the opportunity to demonstrate and apply the high level of knowledge and skills they have gained throughout their high school career.
- To evaluate students' knowledge and application of state standards not tested on the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT).

"The Public Policies of a government are, in short, all of those things a government decides to do" (Magruder's American Government, 2008, p. 4).

Prompt:

- Identify a relevant researchable, contemporary public policy that is domestic or foreign in scope. Domestic policy may address local, state or federal policy. International policy should connect to U.S. foreign policy.
- Research, analyze, and synthesize data related to the policy.

Process:

- Write a technical research paper presenting the following:
 - Policy Identification and Explanation – identify the policy and explain the key points of the public policy.
 - History/Background – Trace the history of the policy issue and explain what was happening that made it so the policy exists today. Include the influence political parties, elected officials, interest groups, and/or specific individuals had on the policy issue. *Graphical support may be included in this section.*
 - Current Situation - explain the current situation regarding the policy, including the effects/outcomes resulting from the implementation of the policy based on valid research and data. Identify and analyze changing factors which may impact the policy. *Graphical support may be included in this section.*
 - Differing Viewpoints – examine and analyze two or more differing points of view (though not necessarily opposing points of view), comparing and contrasting each. *Graphical support may be included in this section.*
 - Policy Recommendation - recommend changes to the current policy or explain the need for the policy to remain in effect. All recommendations must address political or economic feasibility, and must be based on valid

research presented in earlier paper sections. (To be considered for an advanced score in this category, students must address political **and** economic feasibility; refer to the paper rubric for more information.)

- Graphical Support – include a graph or table presenting supporting data/statistics related to the policy *and/or* a political cartoon related to the policy. All graphic support should be referenced in the text of the paper and cited appropriately. Most importantly, the information presented in the graph/cartoon should be explained for the audience. Regardless of the student’s choice of graphical support, data still must be included in the paper. Students may use an appendix to include graphical support. Graphical support should be cited internally.
- The paper should be submitted to Turnitin.com before the final copy of the paper is turned in for scoring.
- Create a PowerPoint that highlights the key information in each section of the paper.
- Orally present the results of research in a formal presentation, supported by PowerPoint, in which the main points are summarized and explained to a trained panel.

Refer to the rubrics for each component of the project for clarification regarding how each will be evaluated.

Grading Explanation:

Government 12B	English 12B
Senior project will account for 25% of the second semester grade in American Government 12B	Senior project will account for 25% of the second semester grade in English 12B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research = 15% of Semester 2 Grade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research Process = 10% of Semester 2 Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PowerPoint = 10% of Semester 2 Grade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Technical Research Paper = 15% of Semester 2 Grade

See the Research Rubric for the assignments that comprise the Research Grade in each class.

The Senior Project Oral Presentation is a graduation requirement and is not included as a grade for either Government 12B or English 12B.