

The Key Components: The Four P's

The Research
Paper



The Product



The Presentation



The Portfolio

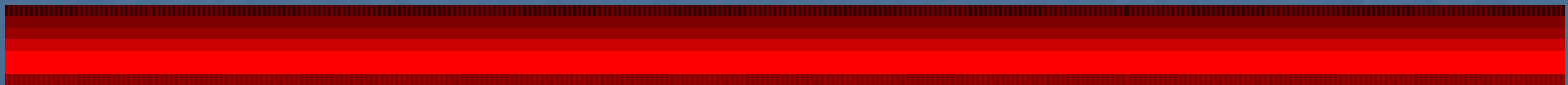
The Paper

- Must be a fully researched in-depth paper of a specified length
- Must receive a passing grade before the student presents
- Is graded on a statewide rubric
- Follows traditional research procedures including documentation
- Hinges on the formation of a topic of the student's choosing



What the State Says: Research Paper

“This paper requires students to develop and demonstrate proficiency in **conducting research** and writing proficiently about a chosen **in-depth topic**. A Graduation Project Steering Committee at the **school sets parameters** to guide the length, format, sources, writing style and other characteristics related to acceptable topic selection, research practices, and writing styles.”



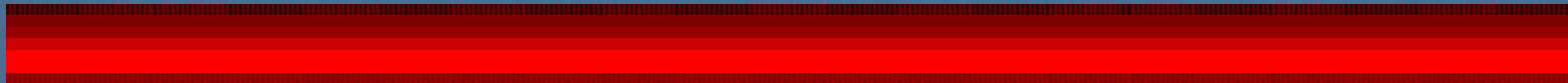
The Presentation

- Is an oral version of the written research
- Done before a panel of judges (school staff and guest judges)
- Done in a specific time limit (Suggestion: 10-12 minutes for the presentation, product, and a Question & Answer segment with additional time for consensus judging)
- Scored on a statewide rubric
- Should demonstrate student growth throughout the process



What the State Says: Presentation

"A formal student oral presentation encapsulating the entire process from the topic selection to project completion and self growth will be given before a review panel of judges composed of staff and community members. The formal presentation is followed by judges' impromptu questions."





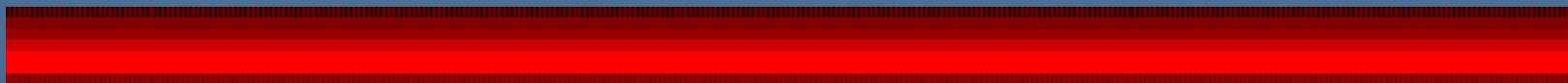
The Product



- Is a tangible extension of the research— “a learning stretch”
- Must involve specific number of hours of effort (the state strongly urges a minimum of hours be determined by schools—fifteen is a good norm)
- Scored on a statewide rubric
- Typical products include models, experiments, performances (dance, music, drama, etc.), demonstrations, information booklets, pamphlets, websites, cooking and sewing projects, and community service.

What the State Says: Product

“A tangible product **related** to the student’s field of study and/or research topic is selected, designed, and developed by the graduating senior. The product **can be a service** that would benefit the school or community. The product should **challenge** the student, allow him or her to show applications of learning, and reflect that the student has spent substantial time completing it. A Graduation Project advisor and/or a school-based committee will approve the initial plans guiding product approval and guidelines. Each student will document his or her progress in a journal or log that will be monitored regularly (see portfolio).”



The Portfolio



- Is to be a documentation of the student's work
- Should focus on process completion
- Will have a sequence of properly documented forms and letters
- Could have a final copy of the research paper

What the State Says: The Portfolio

“A folder containing **reflective** writings or logs and other forms of student documents **demonstrating his or her process and progress**. The journal will be **monitored** by the project advisor, course teacher who will assign the grade, and/or mentor on a regular basis.”

