



Senior Project Purpose and Prompt 2009

The senior project is a combined project between Government and English.

Purpose:

The purpose of the project is twofold:

- To prepare students for educational and employment opportunities after high school.
- 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 issue.

Process:

- Write a technical research paper to present the following:
 - Policy Identification - explain the key points of the public policy.
 - History/Background - explain the purpose of the original policy and how it was implemented. Include the influence major political parties, elected officials, interest groups, and/or specific individuals had on the creation of the policy.
 - Current Situation - explain the current situation regarding the policy, including the effects/outcomes resulting from the policy based on valid research. Identify and analyze changing factors which may impact the policy. Include graphical support.
 - Differing Viewpoints - examine and analyze two or more differing points of view, comparing and contrasting each. Graphical support may be included.
 - Policy Recommendation - recommend changes to the current policy that are politically and economically feasible and based on valid research, or explain the need for the policy to remain in effect.
- 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.