



Global Scholars Capstone Project – Guidelines

October 2018

The Capstone Project is the culminating activity that fulfills the requirements for the Global Scholars Certificate offered by the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The purpose of the culminating project is to assure that students are able to apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information and communicate significant knowledge and understanding of a globally-focused topic or activity, and to effectively present their work to a panel for consideration of the award. Global Scholars candidates are expected to conduct research, prepare an extensive paper or project, develop an internationally-focused product, and present their work before a panel of teachers, peers, and World Affairs Council of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Department of Education representatives.

Throughout their three years in the Global Scholars program, students work on developing college-level academic research, writing, and interpersonal skills, through approved Global Scholars courses, globally-infused extracurricular activities and service learning projects, and the Capstone Project development. Students must provide proof of fully-developed research, thesis statements, and formal research papers with annotated bibliographies or a written background paper and a presentation of an original or interpretative artistic work. Candidates must choose topics that relate to the mission of international affairs education and global awareness, and are encouraged to consider global perspectives and the international implications of their chosen topics and format.

Suggested formats:

- **Research Paper and Supporting Visual Presentation**
The candidate will complete a thesis-driven research paper about their chosen topic. These papers should not solely be a report stating facts and information about a particular topic. Rather, these papers must articulate a strong argument supported by substantial evidence. For students writing an I-Search paper, the thesis is more of a hypothesis and the paper should explore the student's path through research and project-development in investigating their hypothesis.
- **Research Paper and Artistic Performance, Art Project, Travelogue**
The student will complete a research paper about their chosen artistic or experiential work. These papers should not solely be a report stating facts and information about a particular topic. Rather, these papers must offer substantial background information to enhance the performance, exhibition, or presentation on a personal experience.

All papers must:

- Have a clear thesis or hypothesis, or clearly define the history and lineage of the artistic presentation or experience
- Be organized and well developed
- Follow MLA formatting guidelines
- Meet length requirements (8 pages for research paper, 5 pages for paper supporting performance)
- Adequately cite sources and include a works cited page using MLA format
- Use conventional grammar, mechanics, and language appropriate for formal writing



Portfolio

Students will assemble a simple portfolio (electronic preferred) that showcases the work they have done for their Capstone Project, and to be shared with the panel one week prior to the presentation. Components may include (but are not limited to): final copy of research paper, a research log, an annotated bibliography, and all components of the student's project.

Panel Presentation

Students will complete a presentation in front of a panel of professionals to explain their project. This panel presentation should include a visual demonstration (PowerPoint, performance, art exhibit, etc.). The presentation should be between seven and ten minutes long followed by questions from the panel.

Please direct any questions to:

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