

Project Ideas

The Fine Arts Graduation Project is a public presentation required of all students as part of Oxford Preparatory School's graduation requirements. The purpose of this culminating project is to assure that students are able to apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information and communicate significant knowledge and understanding.

The project is designed to give students an authentic opportunity to direct their own learning through research, self-reflection, presentation, and an appreciation for the Arts. To allow for differences in interest, aptitude, and learning style, students may select their own topic related to community service, academic research, job-shadowing/internships, or an area of personal interest. The fine arts connectivity can be through the topic itself or be fulfilled in the product creation portion.

Graduation Project Sample Topics, Theses, and Products

Research Topic: Choreography (Dance)

Possible Thesis: An important focus of modern choreography is thematic development.

Products: Interview a choreographer about their motivation towards choreography and apply that focus to an original work.

Research Topic: Lighting Effect

Possible Thesis: Front lighting is more effective than back lighting for small house theatrical productions.

Products: Create a portfolio of lighting effects.

Research Topic: Art Museums

Possible Thesis: The recent trend towards "hands on" learning in museums has resulted in heightened artistic interests.

Products: Volunteer at an Art Museum.

Research Topic: Teaching Music

Possible Thesis: Increased learning in music develops academic achievement.

Products: Participate in early music instruction.

Research Topic: The effects of the Internet on the music industry

Possible Thesis: The availability of music, both legal and illegal, on the Internet has had both negative and positive impacts on the music industry.

Product: Interview a music producer and a music store owner and/or conduct surveys on the type of media people are choosing for their music (online or physical).

Project Ideas

Research Topic: Teaching elementary students how to use the Internet safely and properly

Possible Thesis: Elementary students who learn to use the Internet safely and properly can conduct better research without being exposed to improper content.

Product: Create a guide for elementary students on how to use the Internet safely and responsibly for research and then use it to teach a group of elementary students.

Research Topic: The evolution of the use of robotics in the medical field

Possible Thesis: The use of robotics in the medical has been evolving over the past fifty years.

Product: Develop a multimedia presentation (more than a simple powerpoint) showing the timeline and evolution of the use of robotics in the medical field.

Research Topic: The crucial events of the Civil Rights Movement in North Carolina

Possible Thesis: Many significant events took place in North Carolina during the Civil Rights Movement.

Product: Create a painting/drawing/illustration of the most pivotal events that took place.

Research Topic: Influence of the internet on publishing

Possible Thesis: The increased publication of books since rise of the internet has had a profound impact on literacy in America.

Product: Interview and shadow a published author.

Research Topic: Influence of reading to children.

Possible Thesis: Children who are read to from infancy become better readers and better overall students.

Product: Conduct surveys and volunteer in a day care setting serving as a “reader” to children.

Research Topic: Influence of advertising on children.

Possible Thesis: Advertising does not have an adverse effect on children.

Product: Create positive advertising using several different media.

Research Topic: Censorship in schools.

Possible Thesis: Schools should not censor texts from the curriculum.

Product: Create lesson plans for use of a controversial piece of literature in the high school English class.

Research Topic: The media and its influence

Possible Thesis: Major global events and issues desensitize the public.

Product: Conduct surveys and measure attitudes toward today’s media.

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Research Topic: Obesity in children and its effects.

Possible Thesis: Obese children have weaker academic performance than children who are not obese.

Product: Create an awareness education program on active lifestyles in children vs. sedentary lifestyles. (Advertising campaign)

Research Topic: Addictive potential of tobacco, the role of public health agencies in reducing tobacco rates, and the fiscal impact of tobacco reduction rates on tobacco farmers.

Possible Thesis: There are financially viable options for agriculture other than tobacco farming.

Product: Identify alternative agricultural products and put together a multimedia presentation for the county commissioners.

Research Topic: A comparison of current diet programs.

Possible Thesis: All diets are not created equal.

Product: Research and interview with different commercial diet programs, online diet programs, nutritionists and doctors to compare their longterm success rates and weight loss recommendations.

Research Topic: Benefits of cardiovascular exercise on blood pressure.

Possible Thesis: Daily exercise can improve blood pressure.

Product: Compare weight training, cardiovascular exercise and a combination of the two. Conduct an experiment to compare the effects of blood pressure and various types of exercise and publish results in a brochure.

Research Topic: Performance enhancing drugs and the US athlete.

Possible Thesis: Although famous athletes have been recently convicted of taking performance enhancing drugs, the public opinion of these athletes has not diminished.

Product: Create a documentary film. Interview or survey high school athletes as to their perception of athletes that have taken performance enhancing drugs and the possibility that they would take drugs to promote their athletic prowess.

Research Topic: The causes and effects of adult illiteracy in North Carolina

Possible Thesis: Adult illiteracy in North Carolina has a huge impact on our society.

Product: Create a presentation that includes charts showing the causes and effects of adult illiteracy in North Carolina

Research Topic: The role of libraries in the American democratic process

Possible Thesis: Libraries have played a major role in the American democratic process over the past 50 years.

Product: Create a presentation, including a timeline, that shows direct and indirect roles that libraries have played in the American democratic process over the past 50 years.

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Research Topic: The effects of violence in video games on teenagers in America

Possible Thesis: Violent video games have impacted America's teenagers in many ways.

Product: Conduct a survey of teenagers who play video games versus those who do not to gauge their sensitivity to violence. Present the results and the research found in a presentation.

Research Topic: The causes and effects of outsourcing in the manufacturing and information technology sectors

Possible Thesis: Outsourcing of vital jobs in the manufacturing and information technology sectors has had a negative impact on our economy.

Product: Create a video in which you interview people who have been directly affected by outsourcing.

Research Topic: Physics of a roller coaster

Possible Thesis: With the increase of force and speed of a rollercoaster, head and neck trauma injuries increase.

Product: Build a model roller coaster.

Research Topic: Fashion design

Possible Thesis: Fashion design ideas recycle from decade to decade.

Product: Design a modern fashion portfolio using ideas from prior decades.

Research Topic: Home energy efficiency

Possible Thesis: The energy efficiency of a home is affected by the architectural materials used.

Product: Draw blueprints, elevation drawings, and make a model of an energy efficient home.

Research Topic: Yield of a crop

Possible Thesis: Various types of soil affect the yield of a crop or plant.

Product: Develop, plant, and harvest a crop using various types of soil and measure yields. Present the results with a "photographic journalism" installation.

Research Topic: Flight.

Possible Thesis: North Carolina has a right to proclaim "First in Flight".

Product: Create a presentation about North Carolina's participation in the history of flight.

Research Topic: Foreign Films and the US market.

Possible Thesis: The US movie industry is being influenced by foreign films.

Product: Watch film makeovers that originated in other countries. Address the changes from one language and culture to the other.