

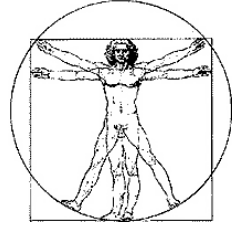


HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL

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Humanities Summer Project—students entering 12th grade

due Autumn 2011

What is the summer project?

Summer projects prepare students for the next level of studies in the Humanities. In order to be ready to complete high school studies and begin university-level work, this project asks incoming seniors (1) to explore work they have done over the last three years, (2) to select examples of their best work, (3) to create a portfolio of their best work that is presentable to colleges, teachers, parents and employers, and (4) to prepare to explain and defend the choices represented in the portfolio.

What do I have to do?

Complete the following four tasks.

- 1. Write an academic biography that includes at least one paragraph about every core course you have taken at Hillcrest or another high school.**

Each discussion of a course should:

- Name the course
- Describe the course
- Describe the work *you* did in the course
- Explain how that work shows what *you* learned in the course

Courses should be grouped by subject—for example, Humanities courses, English courses, Social Studies courses, Math courses, Science courses, Languages other than English courses.

- 2. Select one example of your best work from each core subject area. Also select one example of your work outside the classroom.**

You will select at least seven items:

- an example of work in Humanities
- an example of work in English
- an example of work in Social Studies
- an example of work in Math
- an example of work in Science
- an example of work in Languages other than English
- an example of work in extracurricular activities

For each of your seven items:

- a. describe the work (include a copy if available)
- b. explain what you learned by completing the work
- c. explain why this is the best work you did in this area

NOTE: You do not have to include perfect work—your best work may be a 5 earned on an AP Exam, or your best work may be a project that you just (barely) finished on time but (barely) earned a passing grade.

Whatever *you* select to present, explain what *you* learned that is demonstrated in the work. select to present, explain what you learned that is demonstrated in the work.

3. Gather your academic biography and your work examples into a portfolio.

Use a binder and sheet projectors—see any Humanities course teacher for an example.

4. Prepare to explain your portfolio before a faculty committee.

You will present your portfolio to a faculty committee in May 2012. Start thinking now about the questions the committee might ask you about your portfolio and work—and think about the answers you might offer. *All the questions will ask about the explanations you include in the portfolio—the committee is interested in **how** you explain what you learned, not in judging what you learned or may not have learned.*

The Humanities Faculty Cohort 2012 Committee will meet with you in autumn 2011 to review your portfolio. All Humanities faculty will work with you so that your portfolio represents your best work. The faculty will also work with you to prepare for the portfolio presentation next spring.

How will this be graded?

- The portfolio may be required as part of your E7 and/or H7 first marking period grade.
- The portfolio and presentation are required for an Humanities-endorsed diploma.