

Silverton High School

Designing Your Own EA Project Outline

Step 1: Choose a Topic

The first step in your Extended Application (EA) is to select a topic. Start this step by brainstorming. Your EA project should be driven by a career interest, a skill you have or a strong interest area that may lead to a possible career. There are several ways to arrive at a topic.

Identify and list a possible career, use CIS for assistance.

Maybe you really know what you want to do for a first career or you're fairly certain it will be one of a couple of choices you have in mind. You might know that you want to be a teacher or definitely do something that has to do with airplanes or one of a thousand other career paths. If you are one of those fortunate people, list your possible future career(s) below:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Identify and list a skill or area of expertise, use CIS for assistance.

Is there something you are especially good at? You can center your senior project on a skill that you can use to gain career related skills. List three skills or areas of expertise:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Identify and list an interest, use CIS for assistance.

What do you really enjoy doing? What are you really good at? Maybe your career will not center on this interest but it could provide you with valuable insight to the type of life you want to live. Your EA project could be designed around educating, advocating or entertaining a group of people.

List up to three passions: things you really enjoy, or in which you are kind of an expert:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Step Two: Choose Your Product

Your product will be a blending of a topic and your skills and abilities

- ◆ **A Product or Experience** is something that you create or engineer, that can be seen, held, tasted, heard or smelled.
- ◆ Your product or experience must be directly related to your **topic** and the result of an active verb.
- ◆ "**ACTIVE**": your product requires an active verb such as

Plan
Create
Manage

Entertain Organize
Serve
Teach

Inspire
Coach
Advocate

Coordinate
Facilitate

Just helping out somewhere and following directions does **not** constitute an EA project - that is volunteering! **Look for a way to actively use your skills to create, organize, plan or educate.**

FOR EXAMPLE: Doing a team camp for your coach **does not** constitute an EA project, unless you run your own specific camp where you have others help out and **can demonstrate a tie to your future career goals.** You plan it, publicize it, organize it and utilize your skills; if not then it does not make it as an EA project.

- ◆ You are required to spend a minimum of **TEN hours** of time on your **product or experience.** THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE TIME SPENT ON PAPERWORK.
- ◆ Your product or experience **must be tied to your future career goals, skills and/or interests.** It must:
 1. Be of real interest and meaning to you (Relevance)
 2. Push you into areas of challenge, beyond your comfort zone (Rigor)
 3. Allow you to show your ability to meet the following State of Oregon Career Related Learning Standards:
 - Personal Management:** exhibit appropriate work ethic and behaviors
 - Problem Solving:** apply decision-making and problem-solving techniques
 - Communication:** demonstrate effective and appropriate communication skills
 - Teamwork:** demonstrate effective teamwork
 - Employment Foundations:** demonstrate academic, technical or organizational knowledge and skills
 - Career Development:** demonstrate career development skills in planning for post-high experiences
 4. Gain experience, additional resources and knowledge from your community contact person, community contact, advisor and other field experts. (Relationships)

Describe your product below:

Step 3: Writing your Essential Question

Essential questions are questions that require you to **plan a course of action.** **Your Essential Question is the question that is answered by your product.** An example format for an Essential Question is, "How can I use my career direction, skills or abilities, or a strong area of interest to create a product or experience?" It is your job to narrow down and define that general question for yourself.

What is something you want to know more about for your career goals and life interests? Writing an essential question is the first major decision you will make as you prepare for your project. An essential question is a question where you don't already have an answer - it is the kind of question where you have to create an experience so that the answer can be discovered or invented. Most effective essential questions begin with the words "How," "Why," or "Which."

Topics for your essential question can be found:

- In the occupations and schools you have saved in your My Favorites in CIS
- In newspapers
- By talking with your family and friends
- By working with people in your community
- By talking with teachers that teach your favorite subject(s)
- In your hobby
- In the part-time and volunteer work you have already done

An essential question should be relevant - have something to do with your interests, your future career goals - to your life. As you begin to brainstorm on possible topics, think about:

1. Your career goals
2. Why you are interested in those careers
3. What you would like to know more about for those careers
4. Other interests you have and how those are important to you

If you are having trouble deciding on just one topic, write two or three essential questions and then talk with your teacher about them. You will likely find one to be of more interest after the discussion.

Examples:

“How can I use my interest in becoming a firefighter to educate elementary students about fire safety?”

“How can I use my web design skills to create a new website for the Silverton Historic Museum?”

Write your Essential Question(s) below:

Step 4: Advisor Approval

Discuss your plans with your advisor and get approval. Once approved by your advisor complete the following steps.

1. Login to **CIS**
2. Scroll over the **My Portfolio** tab and click **Senior Project/EA Project**
3. For first time use click **Create a new EA Project**, every other time click **Edit Existing Project**.
4. Complete the **Project Information** section.
5. Complete the **Essential Question** section.
6. Use the **Project Proposal Checklist** to ensure that each section meets the requirements.
7. Complete the **Mentor Selection Packet**.
8. Meet with Mrs. Ferro before moving on. Plan to bring this packet, a copy of your proposal from CIS and your signed Project Proposal Checklist to that meeting.

Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please note that you should not start any additional work on your project until it has been approved!

DO NOT WORK AHEAD WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL!