

## Graduation Project Choosing a Topic

### Objective:

To brainstorm ideas for graduation project topics

### Guidelines for Student

1. All students must complete a graduation project to earn a diploma. The Graduation Project consists of four parts:
  - a. The Research Paper (researched in-depth paper of a specified length)
  - b. The Product (an extension of the research)
  - c. The Presentation (an oral version of the written research and product)
  - d. The Portfolio (documentation of the student's work)

*Refer to NC DPI Rubrics.*

2. The purpose of each of the next activities is to create a list of possible topics that students are passionate about and have a true personal interest in developing into a research project.
3. Take 1 to 2 minutes to write down the answers for each question.
  - How do you spend your time after school?
  - What do you choose to do in your free time?
  - What kind of jobs interest you?
  - What subjects have been your favorite in school? In those classes what have some of your favorite projects, books, lessons, etc. been?
  - What do you and your friends spend time talking about?
  - If you had a free day and money to do what ever you wanted, what would you do?
  - What topics or subjects are you generally interested in?
4. You just created a list of ideas you are passionate about – circle your top five ideas – the ideas you have the strongest feelings about.
5. Talk about your ideas with others. As you discuss your ideas, add to your list any new ideas that have been generated from discussion.
6. Refer to handout “**Graduation Project Brainstorm Areas of Interest**”
7. Add to your list any ideas that came from the handout or were sparked by the handout of interest ideas.
8. Now circle the three ideas/topics/issues that you have the strongest feelings about. Write three or four sentences about each stating why this idea/topic/issue is important to you (a rationale) and why you would want to research it. Think about what made you choose this issue in the first place. Why does it stand out?
9. Review the Topic Proposal Form. You will need to take an area of interest (from above) and turn it into a central question. Talk with teachers, parents, administrators, counselors and community members about topics of interest and do some preliminary research if necessary to help write the central question.