

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

Dear incoming senior,

Here is some advice to make your senior exhibition project go as smoothly as possible. One of the first steps for setting up for success is to find and capture an outside expert. Once you have a basic understanding of what your topic is going to be, that's when you should start your search. Think of any profession that requires knowledge about your topic. Contacting people early is important because you might have to go through a lot of people to find someone who is willing to do it. If you come across someone who can't be an outside expert due to time restraints but would like to do something, you can use them as a person to interview.

It will save you a lot stress if you can figure out your service learning project as soon as possible. Think of how your topic could somehow improve somebody. Use that as a started to figure out what you could do for a body of people. Keep in mind, that you are allowed to work with a partner or group for your service learning project. The hardest part of service learning, is not actually doing it, but finding the project that fits perfectly.

One of the biggest keys to getting lots of information from a lot of sources in a timely fashion, is to not read full books. There hopefully is a lot of good information about your topic, but if you spend the time to read an entire book, you are limiting your sources. Getting the perspective of many different authors is important. Find the section that pertains to the information that needs to be cited and looked up, and move on. Hopefully you find your topic interesting, which can make the moving on process difficult, but it is vital.

One aspect of the Senior exhibition that many seniors forget, is using your inside expert. They might not be the perfect person who knows the most about your topic. But all inside experts are very intelligent and will always be able to find ways to help. Simply make sure you don't forget about them, because they are another tool for you to make senior exhibition easier and better.

Be ready for change. It's okay if you decide to take your project into a new direction. Sometimes after you start your research you'll find a direction to go off from. Don't lock yourself into a topic. The whole point is to discover something you find interesting and be able to learn about it in depth. Let those changes happen.

Good luck with your senior exhibition,  
Ben Robinson