



SOUL Projects

Below, please find a list of potential projects that you & your small group may explore together this semester. The brief descriptions next to each topic are there to give you an idea of what you can do with each project.

You will not do ALL of the projects.

You will *turn in one project a month*, (September 2017 – May 2018).

- You will have a say in choosing how you will demonstrate your learning AND how your projects will be assessed (graded)¹.
- You are encouraged to generate your own problems (e.g. “Which game system to buy?”) and then design a project to solve that problem².
- Be creative! Choose from Multiple-Intelligence-based assessment choices like PowerPoint, Video, Skit, Speech, Artsy Poster, Music mix w/ lyrical analysis, Poetry, Interview, Letter to *local media outlet*, etc.

Choose from the potential projects below or come up with your own topic.

- **Absent Fathers** (Investigate the causes and effects of absent fathers.)
- **Automobile Analysis** (Evaluate different products, vehicles, etc. or Analyze the workings of various machinery.)
- **Careers** (Exploration, Focus, or Pathways—depending on grade level)
 - **Child Labor** (Trace the history of the laws keeping you from getting a "real" job before age 15, The History of Unions, or Migrant Labor.)
- **Classics** (Explore a work from Dickens, Steinbeck, Austin, Hawthorne, Shelley, etc.)
- **Combat/War** (Investigate the circumstances leading up to a chosen war, explore veterans' accounts of wars, or Trace the history of passive resistance.)
- **Controversial Topics** (Take a stand on capital punishment, war, welfare, the environment, immigration, etc.)
- **Current Events** (Trace the origins of a current global issue: sex trafficking, etc.)
- **Film Analysis** (Analyze a genre's characteristics or Do a film comparison/analysis.)
- **Gangs** (Explore the relationships between prison and street gangs, societal causes & effects, myths & facts.)
- **Hands On Project** (Perform a task then write about it—see attached handout.)
- **Health Issues** (Explore the Health/Wealth relationship, Causes/effects/cures for cancer, HIV/AIDS, sexual activity, eating disorders, etc.)
- **Historical Fiction** (Investigate a specific historical event or era and write a short story based on actual events.)
- **Holocaust** (Trace the origins, analyze how hatred begins, forms of prejudice, etc)
- **Home Life Description** (Investigate the social factors that affect your family life, finances, education level, etc.—see attached handout.)
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- **Media Analysis** (Analyze several advertisements with respect to target audience, purpose, and effectiveness of message. *What do "they" want you to do?*)
- **Musical Exploration and Analysis** (Explore the history of Hip-Hop, Alternative Rock, etc.)
- **Mythology** (Explore Greek, Roman, Norse, or other cultures' "mythology".)
- **Personal Interest** (Investigate sports teams, artists, celebrities, hobbies, etc.)
- **Poetry Exploration and Analysis** (Investigate different cultures' poetry, key historical periods, poetic forms, etc.)
- **Prisons** (Investigate life behind bars, biographies, juvenile justice, etc.)
- **Reading Groups** (Small group reads/discusses same book and designs their own project.)
- **Shakespeare** (Explore a specific work of the famous poet and playwright.)
- **Short Stories** (Investigate a particular genre or author.)
- **Spirituality** (Investigate the origins of various world religions.)
- **Suspense/Horror genre** (Edgar Allen Poe, Stephen King, etc)
- **Teen Issues** (Research causes/effects/solutions.)
- **Terrorism** (Examine the origins, the types, the mentality, compare to gangs,etc)
- **Understanding Poverty** (Investigate the causes and effects of poverty.)
- **Video Games & Technology** (Investigate the history, progress, "how-to", evaluate products, etc.)
- **What was it like to live in the _____ era?** (Explore an historical period of your choosing, using primary sources (diaries, journals, letters, newspapers, etc.) whenever possible.)
- **Witchcraft and the Puritans** (Investigate the history of "witchcraft" in America, including the early colonial period.)

Remember, the whole point is to explore something that interests you!!!

To ensure your success, I strongly suggest you take the following steps:

1. Discuss and agree on a topic with your peers/team.
2. Decide what you want to explore or the problem you want to solve.
3. Make a plan for action & assessment: what is each person doing?
4. **Run the plan by me:** how will each person be graded?
5. What materials do you need to complete your project?
6. Get started. Don't focus on "your grade"; focus on putting "heart" into the project.
7. Take the INITIATIVE: don't wait for me to tell you to "get to work" each day!