

SAMPLE Eastlake High School Senior Project Topic Proposal

The goal of the Project Topic Proposal is to outline the concept of your project and state your goals. Your responses need to be **detailed**. Please provide detailed responses to these questions; use as much space as you need. Leave all headings and italicized instructions in place and enter your responses below each prompt.

1. Project Title

Provide a short, descriptive title for your project.

Developing My Political Orientation

2. Project Description

Summarize what you will do for your project and describe your final product, service, or process.

For my project, I will volunteer with presidential campaigns for each of the two major parties and work on a local initiative campaign. I will write answers to some questions about how candidates and parties align with my core political values after each volunteering experience. The questions I will answer are: What does this candidate believe in and does this mesh with my core values? What does this candidate's party believe in and does this mesh with the candidate's core values and with my core values? What is this candidate's and this party's core constituency and what are that constituency's core values? After each volunteering period is over, I will write up the answers to those questions in a 2-3 page essay and I will write one letter to the editor of a local paper about the candidate's position on my core values.

3. New Learning

Describe the likely results or other outcomes of your project. For example, the personal learning you might experience, potential benefits of your project for others, etc.

I think I will understand my core political values much better and I will also know who I will vote for in my first presidential election (I will be 18 in November of 2008). I also expect to know more about the political processes in this country and how I can play a role. I expect to know if I want to major in political science or not by the end of this project.

4. Reasons for Selecting Topic

Explain the reasons you selected your project topic. Please review Eastlake's policies and guidelines relating to selecting a project topic.

I am interested in politics, but I don't feel like I understand the processes and I feel like I don't really know what I believe about certain issues. I can see the other side of almost everything I believe in and I change my mind often about what I believe. I think this project is a good way to really establish some core political beliefs for myself and a way for me to find out how I can be involved in politics.

5. Knowledge of Topic

Describe what you knew about the topic before you selected it.

I actually know very little about it right now. I know that Democrats are more liberal than Republicans and that Republicans are really into tax reform and smaller government. I see things I like in both the Democratic AND Republican candidates.

6. Preliminary Research Results

Summarize the results of your research so far. Name at least two potential mentors or expert reviewers, describe their expertise (the reason they would make good mentors) and provide a phone number or email address.

My research so far has lead to the following discoveries:

- ☐ Senator Barack Obama has the most organized local campaign so far
- ☐ Senator John McCain's campaign office is in Bellevue
- ☐ I don't need to be 18 to volunteer
- ☐ I can do all or most of my volunteering on the Eastside
- ☐ Campaign volunteers without experience get to do a lot of interesting and important things if they get involved early in the campaign

Potential Mentors: Susan Anderson* - Internship Coordinator for the Dean campaign: winterinternships@deanforamerica.com I think this person can help me get connected to the local campaign because she is running the national volunteer campaign.

Carl Alberts* -Volunteer Coordinators for King County Republican Party: info@kcgop.org I think this person will be helpful because he coordinates volunteers for the Republican party on the Eastside.

7. Main Project Tasks

Describe the main tasks your project will require you to do.

I will have to identify volunteer opportunities, secure a volunteer position with a Democratic candidate (probably Clinton) and with the King County Republicans. I will have to volunteer and observe and write my essays and editorials. I will then complete my portfolio and prepare my presentation.

8. Potential Risks & Challenges

Describe the risks and challenges you believe you might encounter while doing your project. For example, not being able to find the right community expert to help you, money constraints, physical dangers, etc.

My only worry is that I won't be able to volunteer with both sides or that there won't be enough volunteer work to do. I know I should also be careful to avoid working with other volunteers in an isolated setting so that I stay safe.

* not the real names of the coordinators