

# Graduation Project



As part of 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Workplace Skills initiative, the State of North Carolina now expects all students to fulfill a 4-part Graduation Project as part of its high-school graduation requirements. Starting with the Freshman class of 2006-07, all students must complete this requirement. Student IEP modifications will be followed.

## Thinking Ahead...

### ...about a Topic

- What is your passion?
- Think about “eternal” interests, not passing trends.
  - What are some things you like to do?
  - What courses do you enjoy?
  - What career areas are you interested in?
  - Who are your “everyday” heroes?
  - What makes you admire them?
  - What do you think is valuable to you and to the world?

### ...about a Paper

- What “Essential Question” can you explore?  
(This will be a “fuzzy area” in which even the experts might disagree.)
- What is a controversy in this field?
  - What unresolved problems face professionals in this field?
  - What ethical issues create moral dilemmas?
  - What is the impact of laws or social mores on \_\_\_?

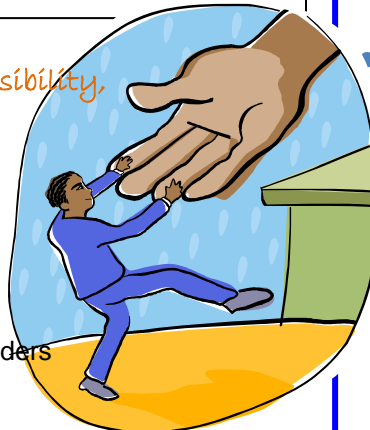
### ...about a Product

- What service learning or internship can help you find answers to your Essential Question?
- Are you participating in other projects through a social or religious organization?  
Can you “marry” the two?

You will have a lot of *independent responsibility*, but you WILL get help!

### Where?

- ✓ ADHS JAG Advisor
- ✓ ADHS content-area teachers
- ✓ ADHS Grad Project Newsletter (monthly)
- ✓ Community Mentor
- ✓ Your family, friends, coaches, and other leaders
- ✓ Mrs. Overby, ADHS GP Coordinator



## The Four P's

### • Portfolio

- Key documents from each year's requirements
- Reflection responses
- Completed over 4-year process

### • Product

- Experiential learning project
- Supervised by community mentor and teacher advisor
- 15-hour time investment
- Extension and support of researched paper
- Completed during 11<sup>th</sup>-grade

### • Paper

- 8-12 pages
- Problem-based research
- Argumentative focus
- Information literacy
- MLA documentation style
- Completed during 11<sup>th</sup>-grade

### • Presentation

- 15-minute oral presentation with Q and A
- Panel of judges from community and school
- Completed during 12<sup>th</sup>-grade