



**WOODSTREAM  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

9800 LOTTSFORD ROAD | MITCHELLVILLE, MD 20721  
301-955-1160 (V) | 301-955-1169 (F)  
WWW.WOODSTREAMACADEMY.COM  
CHANCELLOR ROBERT A. WINGFIELD, D.D.

*Thesis Research  
Project for Grades 7-11  
&  
Senior Practicum and Capstone  
Guidelines  
2021-2022*



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In developing this handbook, we would like to acknowledge the following:

Annapolis Area Christian School

Theodore Wilson, Sr.

Woodstream Christian Academy Administration



## The Thesis Research Project

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The Thesis Research Project is a hallmark feature of Woodstream Christian Academy. Not only will students write a grade-appropriate research paper, but they will also present their research before a panel of judges who will engage them in a question and answer session after the presentation. The purpose of the Thesis Research Project is to equip students to become effective and skilled communicators in their writings and in their speech and to view and present issues, regardless of how controversial they may be, from a biblical worldview. It is our desire to strengthen students' critical thinking, reasoning, analysis, evaluation, synthesis, and presentation skills as they engage in learning how to prove and defend their research topic. Ultimately, we are preparing students for their individual Senior Practicum and Capstone project where they have an opportunity to problem solve and project design before they are launched into their next season of life. These students will be world-changers, and we want them fully equipped for the task that the Lord has set before them.

### Key Components of the Thesis Research Project:

- Selecting and Limiting a Thesis Research Topic
- Surveying and Evaluating Sources
- Creating Essential Research Question
- Writing Annotated Bibliographies
- Taking Notes from Sources
- Writing an Effective Thesis Statement
- Organizing the Thesis Research Paper
- Creating an Outline
- Writing the Draft
- Paraphrasing, Summarizing, and Using Direct Quotes
- Using In-text Citations
- Creating a Bibliography Page
- Revising and Editing the Draft
- Writing the Final Paper
- Creating Thesis Research Presentation
- Thesis Day Presentation

### Required Student Resources:

- A Public Library Card
- Computer Access either at home or at the library

Note: If students are able, please allow them to bring the computer or tablets to school so that they can use their devices to work on their thesis research project during class.



**Grades 7-10 Thesis Research Project  
&  
Senior Practicum & Capstone Presentation**

**Due Date  
2021-2022**

PREWRITING PROCESS	
THESIS RESEARCH FOCUS	DUE DATE
Choosing a Thesis Research Topic	January 10
Controlling Idea	January 13
Locating Thesis Sources and Taking Notes	Friday, January 14-Friday, January 21
Bibliography Cards	Friday, January 28
Note Cards	Wednesday, February 2
Thesis Statement & Outline	Wednesday, February 9
Final Thesis Outline	Wednesday, February 16
Works Cited	Tuesday, February 22
DRAFTING PROCESS	
Draft without Reference Page (1 page per grade level, i.e. 8th grade - 8 pages)	Wednesday, March 2
Document Sources Using APA/MLA	Friday, March 4
Reference Page	Friday, March 11
Revise Draft	Monday, March 21
FINAL MANUSCRIPT AND PRESENTATIONS	
Final Manuscript	Friday, March 25
Prepare Thesis PowerPoint Presentation	Monday, April 4-Wednesday, April 13
PowerPoint Presentation	Thursday, April 14
Video	Tuesday, April 26
<b>Senior Practicum &amp; Capstone Presentation</b>	<b>Friday, April 29</b>
Formal Thesis Presentation & Defense (7th-11th)	Week of May 2-6



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**Grade 11 Thesis Research**

**&**

**Senior Practicum & Capstone Presentation**

**Due Dates**

**2021-2022**

PREWRITING PROCESS	
THESIS RESEARCH FOCUS	DUE DATE
Choosing a Thesis Research Topic	Monday, January 10
Locate, Survey, and Evaluate Sources	Friday, January 14-Friday, January 21
Writing Annotated Bibliographies	Friday, January 28
Creating Essential Research Question	Wednesday, February 2
Creating Bibliography Page	Friday, February 4
Taking Notes from Sources	Wednesday, February 9
Writing Thesis Statement	Wednesday, February 16
Creating Multiple-Paragraph Outline	Tuesday, February 22
DRAFTING PROCESS	
Writing the Draft	Wednesday, March 2
Citing Sources	Friday, March 4
Revising and Editing Draft	Monday, March 21
FINAL MANUSCRIPT	
Final Thesis Research Paper	Thursday, April 14
Thesis PowerPoint	Thursday, April 14
PRESENTATION	
Senior Practicum & Capstone Presentation	Friday, April 29
Grade 11 Thesis Presentation	Week of May 2-6



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## GRADES 7 – 11 THESIS THEMES

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### **Grade 7: Global Theme**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade students must select a global crisis or global concern. The thesis needs to reflect a current international social, political, environmental, or governmental issue and must include a biblical worldview on the global crisis.

Examples:

- Clean Water
- Sanitation Technology
- Human Rights
- Art Therapy for Children of War
- Child Soldiers of War
- Global Warming
- Endangered Species
- Land Mines
- Human Trafficking
- Earth's Biomes
- International Disaster Relief
- Global Education Gap
- Wildlife Rehabilitation
- Health Care
- Microfinance
- Financial Inclusion
- Climate Change
- Hunger in Developing Countries
- Food Production in Developing Countries
- Food Insecurity-
- Global Poverty
- Sustainability
- Foreign Aid
- International Law and Justice
- Syrian Refugees



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## **Grade 8: American Culture**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade students must select a current “hot topic” in American culture. The thesis needs to reflect current American trends in politics, government, entertainment, fashion, sports, or general lifestyle.

Examples:

- Censorship in Schools
- Book Banning
- Immigration
- Race
- Homelessness
- School Violence
- Bullying
- Gun Control
- Eating Disorders
- Recycling
- Landfills
- Performance Enhancing Drugs
- Social Networking
- Social Media Impact on Relationships
- Football and Concussions
- Homework
- Removing Racial Epithets from Literature
- Later School Day Start
- Electronic Devices as Educational Tools
- Children Need for Recess
- Cyberbullying
- Year-Round Schooling
- Homeschooling
- Charter Schools
- Justification of Military Force
- Police Officers and Body Cameras
- Limiting Time Spent of Electronic Devices
- Beauty Pageants





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## **Grade 9: American Social Concerns**

9<sup>th</sup> Grade students must select an American social concern. The thesis needs to reflect a current American social issue that impacts America or a specific group of Americans.

Examples:

- Homelessness
- Genetic Engineering
- Intellectual Property
- Police Brutality
- Capital Punishment
- Euthanasia
- STEM Education
- Blended Learning in Education
- Need for the Arts in Education
- Importance of National Security
- Importance of Privacy Laws
- Cheerleading as a Sport
- Tracking Devices on Student ID Cards
- Human Cloning
- Animal Testing
- Health Care
- Lowering the Voting Age
- Affirmative Action
- Death Penalty
- Single-Sex Education
- Standardized Testing
- Intelligent Design
- Raising the Driving Age
- School Uniforms
- Teenage Workload
- Adoption Rights
- Waterboarding
- Offshore Drilling
- Stem Cell Research
- Organic Food
- Pay of Professional Athletes



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## **Grade 10: Philosophical or Religious Issue**

10<sup>th</sup> Grade students must select a philosophical or religious issue.

Examples:

- Natural Law
- Does the Bible Support Just War?
- The Effects of Bible Illiteracy
- Transgender Rights
- Abortion
- Students Studying Ethics
- The Crusades
- Redemption
- Sanctification
- Justification
- Faith
- Love
- Prayer
- Fasting
- Is Hell Eternal?
- Eternal Life

## **Grade 11: Political Headlines**

11<sup>th</sup> Grade students must select a political headline. The thesis needs to reflect a current national or international political issue.

Examples:

- Eliminating the Electoral College
- Political Leaders as Role Models
- Border Wall between the United States and Mexico
- Transgender Rights
- Tuition Free College
- Abortion
- School Vouchers
- Free Speech
- Social Security
- Net Neutrality
- Gerrymandering



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## GRADE 12: THE SENIOR PRACTICUM & CAPSTONE PROJECT

The Senior Practicum & Capstone Research Paper is an important element of the Senior Practicum & Capstone Project since it provides the foundation for the Senior Practicum & Capstone Design Project. The focus of the research paper will be based upon either your Life Assessment career goals or another area of interest that requires you to create a solution to a problem or need. The three-fold goal for the research paper is as follows:

- Provide background information on your career interest or area of interest. Be sure to explain why you want to pursue this particular career and why you are attracted to this career field. Your background information should assume that your audience is not familiar with your career field. Make sure you research your career field instead of assuming you know all aspects of your career field or area of interest.
- Identify an issue, problem, need, or concern with your career field or area of interest. You should not only research the issue, problem, need, or concern within your career field, but you should give detailed information. Identifying the issue will serve as the basis for your Senior Practicum & Capstone Project Design.
- Make recommendations or provide solutions for change. This portion of your paper should be original and thought through thoroughly. Your recommendations will be essential to your Senior Practicum & Capstone Project Design.

The School of Rhetoric Senior Practicum & Capstone Project is an individual research project that requires each Senior Class student to research their proposed career field or area of interest, identify an issue, problem, or concern within their field, and then design a program that not only provides a solution, but also integrates a biblical worldview while drawing upon knowledge gained in and through their classes during their high school years.

Through the Senior Practicum & Capstone Project course design, students can gain internship experience as well as strengthen their skills in research, problem solving, and project design. The course design also provides students with an opportunity to solidify their written and oral presentation skills while understanding the realities of their proposed career and gaining insight into their God-given gifts and abilities. The Grade 12 School of Rhetoric Senior Practicum & Capstone Project is the culmination of the Grade 1-11 Thesis Presentation experience.



## THESIS PAPER GUIDELINES

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### Formatting Criteria

#### *Length:*

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Minimum of 7 pages  
MLA Format
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Minimum of 8 pages  
MLA Format
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Minimum of 9 pages  
APA Format
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Minimum of 10 pages  
APA Format
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Minimum of 11 pages  
APA Format
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Minimum of 12 pages  
APA Format

#### *Page Layout:*

Use standard 8-1/2" by 11" paper.

Type the entire paper double-spaced.

Use a 1" margin on the sides, top and bottom of the paper.

Indent the first line of each paragraph

Use 12 point Times New Roman font



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