

## ACCESS: Personal Project

Burke/Fall 2002

**Overview** The Personal Project develops new skills and improves upon existing ones by having you study something of personal importance. You might study the life of someone important, whose example or ideas inspire you. Or you might investigate an invention or product that intrigues or excites you; topics include everything from guitars to cars, careers to cultures, ideas to identity, fashion to Picasso, and everything else. This project gives you the freedom to work more effectively in class—on your project if you prefer, or on work for a class if you need. Everyone must, however, complete this assignment: It is your final exam.

**Criteria** Any subject is fine so long as it is:

- Meaningful (to you)
- Substantial
- Researchable (by multiple means: interviews, visitations, reading, observing)
- Narrow and manageable
- Appropriate

### Guidelines

**Target Notes** Generate possible topics

**Topic Selection** Choose the most interesting one that meets the criteria outlined above

**Main Idea Organizer** Complete the Main Idea Organizer about your topic

**Proposal** Use the Main Idea Organizer to write a one-page *typed* proposal explaining:

- Why you want to investigate this subject
- What you already know about it
- What you want to find out about it

**Research** Investigate your subject by doing as many of the following as possible:

- Read about your subject from multiple sources (newspapers, books, etc.)
- Interview others who know about this subject
- Observe or shadow people or places associated with your subject
- Conduct a web search

**Progress Report** Fridays people will write about and discuss what they did, found, and learned that week with me, a small group, or the class

**Time Card** Keep track of the time you spend on this project using the attached time sheet

**Outline** Make an outline for your topic; this will become the basis for your final speech

**Infotext** You must use your outline to create a one-page, two-sided brochure on a computer

**Presentation** You must teach us about your subject in a ten-minute presentation

**Notes/Evaluations** Listeners must take notes on all speeches: evaluate, respond, reflect

**Letter** Using your notes and your own experience with the project, write a letter in which you reflect on what you accomplished, what you learned, and what you would like to learn about next (i.e., possible topics)

**Bibliography** Must include a properly formatted bibliography for your project. *It must be typed on the computer.* It must include at least *three* of the following:

- Newspaper article
- Book
- Website
- Magazine article
- Other (CD, interview, etc.)

**Options** You may, if you prefer:

- Work in *pairs*, but not more than pairs
- Propose alternative forms/formats for your Personal Project (web site, multimedia production, performance, etc.) so long as it meets the guideline requirements outlined above



