Hamden High School



Class of 2023 Capstone Handbook

III. Research Paper

Capstone Advisors

All advisors will hold office hours each week. You can set up a time to meet with them in person or communicate via email, Google Drive, and through the Skills21 platform as needed. Please also join their Capstone Google Classroom for updates and to communicate. You may also meet with your advisor in small groups if you have similar Capstone Projects or questions.

Advisor	Room #	Email Address
Ms. Cullen	D109	acullen@hamden.org
Mr. Gabriel	A312	mgabriel@hamden.org
Mrs. Jacobson	Guidance	tjacobson@hamden.org
Mr. Pechette	A105	Jpechette@hamden.org
Mr. Majernicek	A310	jmajernicek@hamden.org
Ms. McKeon	Main Office	smckeon@hamden.org
Ms. Schultz	A202	kschultz@hamden.org
Mrs. Turski	Guidance	mturski@hamden.org

Class of 2022 QUICK-START GUIDE

Here are instructions to submit your work on the portal:

- 1) Visit: <u>Hamden.skills21.org</u>
- 2) Login as a new user using your Hamden High School Gmail account
- 3) Complete the entry fields (Use the word, "Capstone" and select student)
- 4) Add your advisor. You can find your advisor on the PDF on the District Website.
- 5) Class of 2022, COMPLETE AND SUBMIT ONLY THE FOLLOWING:
 - A) Proposal, Consent form/Contract and/or mentor forms (Options I or II only)
 - B) 1 short reflection due at the end of each month (5 TOTAL)
 - C) Final Project submission (Video summary of you explaining your project)and Final project submission.

Capstone Project Options

Select one of the following options to fulfill the Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment requirement for graduation. Capstone with Distinction is an optional choice following your initial selection of options 1, 2 or 3. Many of you had already completed this with your Civics teacher last year. If you are graduating in 2023, you may change your project option by March 28th, 2022 **with approval from your advisor.**

Please proceed to your respective section in this packet where you will find specific details and documents:

Students might select this option if they are interested in exploring an issue in their community and taking action to make a positive differenceStudents might select this option if they are interested in learning more about a personal interest or a possible career opportunityOp inv imp and icit. Complete proposal in CivicsThe major steps to accomplish: . Complete proposal in CivicsThe major steps to accomplish: . Complete proposal in CivicsThe major steps to accomplish: . Complete proposal in CivicsThe accomplish: . Complete proposal in CivicsThe major steps to accomplish: . Complete 10 plus hours of field experience or 15 for Distinction (and record it in the Project Log) MEN- TOR REQUIRED (Flex ap- proval) . Complete 5 ReflectionsComplete 5 ReflectionsOp proval). Complete 5 ReflectionsComplete 5 ReflectionsComplete 5 Reflections	OPTION THREE:
Students might select this option if they are interested in exploring an issue in their community and taking action to make a positive differenceStudents might select this option if they are interested in learning more about a personal interest or a possible career opportunityOp inv inv imp action to make a positive differenceThe major steps to accomplish: • Complete proposal in Civics • Meet with advisor to review proposal • Capstone Project Mentor Agreement form • Complete 10 plus hours of field experience or 15 for Distinction (and record it in the Project Log) MEN- TOR REQUIRED (Flex ap- proval)The major steps to accomplish: • Complete 5 ReflectionsThe major steps to accomplish: • Complete 5 Reflections	Research Paper
 accomplish: Complete proposal in Civics Meet with advisor to review proposal Capstone Project Mentor Agreement form Complete 10 plus hours of field experience or 15 for Distinction (and record it in the Project Log) MEN- TOR REQUIRED (Flex ap- proval) Complete 5 Reflections 	Students might select this option if they are interested in investigating the origins, impacts, and current research and thinking regarding a top- ic in a number of fields
 & Final Project Complete the oral report/presentation Complete the tasks on the Skills21 Launchpad portal Complete the tasks on the Skills21 Launchpad portal 	 The major steps to accomplish: Complete proposal in Civics Meet with advisor to review proposal Complete sections of research paper/drafts according to timeline developed with mentor Complete 5 Reflections and your 5-7 page research paper. Complete the oral report/presentation Complete the tasks on the Skills21 Launchpad portal

Complete and upload all documents to your Launchpad

CAPSTONE WITH DISTINCTION

Receive a Capstone Distinction Cord at Graduation by achieving a passing score for all components in the rubric AND present your project at a Showcase Night for a group that will comprise of district/school staff, parent and community members. Date and time TBD.

Project Due Dates & Tasks:

These deadlines are suggested in order to ensure you can complete all tasks according to the Capstone guideline. All assignments will be submitted via the <u>Hamden.skills21 Portal</u>. Submitting an assignment after the suggested deadline may result in your advisor not being able to provide feedback to guide you on later tasks. Students are always welcomed and encouraged to submit completed work prior to any and all deadlines. All tasks are outlined in this handbook.

I. Discover	
Visit the <u>Hamden.skills21 Portal</u> and complete tasks 1-4.	
Task 1: Submit your Capstone Proposal Task 2: Join Your Advisor's Google Classroom	
Task 3: Submit form E1 Parent/Guardian & Student Contract	May 6, 2022
Task 4: Submit form E2 Mentor Consent Form	May 0, 2022
Forms may be submitted by taking a picture of your form and up- loading the picture to Google Classroom	
Meet or contact your advisor via Google for assistance.	
II. Capstone Project Approval	March-June, 2022
Meet with your advisor in-Person, via Google Classroom/	
Google Classroom video or through email for Project approval. After Approval you can then proceed to tasks III-IV.	
Meet with your advisor at east twice in this time period	March 1-June 20, 2022
III. Project Development (Essays C1-C4)	
Task 5: C1 Reflection 1	September 30, 2022
Complete and Upload C1 to <u>Hamden.SKILLS21 portal</u>	
Task 6 C2 Reflection 2	
Complete and Upload C2 to <u>Hamden.SKILLS21 portal</u>	October 28, 2022
 Meet with Advisor 	
Task 7 C3 Reflection 3	November 18, 2022
Complete and Upload C3 to <u>Hamden.SKILLS21 portal</u>	November 18, 2022
Task 8 C4 Reflection Project Trailer & Essay 4	
Complete your homepage, logo and video	December 16, 2022
 Complete and Upload C4 to <u>Hamden.SKILLS21 portal</u> Meet with your Advisor 	
IV. Project Exhibition	
Task 9: Final Reflection (Essay C5) This is your final Project Submission. Congratulations!	
 Complete C5 and Upload to <u>Hamden.skills21 Portal</u> 	
Submit a video, PPT, Research paper, or other of yourself with	January 28 2023
your final presentation of your Capstone project. You can	
choose to present live to your advisor if you are not participating in the Showcase, or plan on watching the video together.	
 Submit your field Activity log for Options 1 & 2 (form F-4) 	
V. Showcase Night for Capstone with Distinction	
Task 10: This is Optional & should be selected by Sept. 28, 2022	TBD

I. DISCOVER (Tasks 1-4) Task 1: A) Project Review & Proposal

COMPLETE THIS ONLINE AT HAMDEN.SKILLS21.ORG

Due Date: Friday May 6th, 2022

<u>Your Directions</u>: Last year, you completed these questions. f you had not already done so or if the data is no longer accessible, use these questions to re-examine your project. You could also go to your Google Drive and then the Classroom folder. Find and click on your Civics class from last year and you should find your proposal. You can also type, "Capstone" in your Google Drive search.

Use the following below as a guide to re-examine or create your Research project **and submit on the** Hamden.skills21 Launchpad:

- 1) Your project proposal
- 2) Parent/Guardian/Student Contract Form
- 3) Mentor form on the Hamden.skills21 Jaunchpad Portal dashboard.
- 4) Join your Advisor's Google Classroom.
- 1) Select Any One: Option 1: Community Action Project Option 2: Personal Interest Project Option 3: Research Paper
- 2) What is your proposed project topic? (Start with a general idea and then be specific. What will you be setting out to do, prove or accomplish). For example: I will volunteer at a specific daycare facility and my goal will be to develop an educational game that will allow for...etc. Thesis The relationship between global warming and economic growth is in direct conflict with one another. In order for the trend to reverse, *this* must occur...etc.
- 3) Why did you choose this project? What is your project inspiration?
- 4) How will this project help you in the future? What will you learn by completing this project? How will your project or paper benefit the community, society or world?
- 5) List the materials, supplies, technology and resources you will need to complete the project. (A few examples are computer, iPad, paper, Arduino, poster paper, etc.)

6) What will you need from other people? Will you work with other people? Who will be your mentor (Options I and II)?

7) What do you plan to create for your final product?

(This description should be specific and should be a fully developed paragraph.)

Your Advisors would appreciate it and allow them to get to know you if you do complete these questions and submit it on their Google Classroom assignment page.

Task 1: Research Paper Project Proposal

Advisor (Name & Email): _____

The Research Paper option provides students with an opportunity to develop a larger understanding of the world in which they live by immersing themselves in an approved contemporary topic of their choice. Students can explore topics within business and economics, geography, government, literature, science and health, social issues, and more. Students will investigate their topic through a systematic inquiry-based research process resulting in an increased understanding of their developing worldview. **Once selected**, **your thesis must be approved by your advisor**. <u>If you are graduating in 2023, your</u> <u>thesis can be changed by March 28, 2022 with approval</u>. Many of you had already completed this with your Civics teacher last year.

RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS:

A. Select/Modify ANY 1 of the following topics OR create your own & Complete Section B.

- Addiction and chemical dependency
- Antiracism
- Bioethics
- Censorship
- Digital Media
- Mass Media
- Domestic Terrorism
- Drones
- China
- Food Insecurity
- Genetic Engineering
- Immigration
- Mental Health
- Natural Disasters
- Net Neutrality
- Politics and Media
- Space Exploration
- Economics

Individual focus within a broad subject area would naturally narrow the given topic to a more suitable and manageable focus. You can always research something else connected to your interests — speak with your advisor and check out our high school database Research in Context.

Task 1: Research Paper Project Proposal

(Continued)

• Develop a Research paper Project not listed with the approval of your advisor.

Use the following questions to help guide you in the development of your project:

- 1) How is the topic connected to myself and my own background knowledge?
- 2) What questions do I have about the topic or am I trying to answer or prove?
- 3) What community, local, national, global issue is my topic connected to?
- 4) What is the relationship between the local/national community and the topic?
- 5) What new understanding am I building?
- 6) How has the inquiry process helped me formulate my new understanding?

B. <u>RESEARCH PAPER REQUIREMENTS:</u>

- Meet with your assigned Hamden High School Capstone Advisor once per quarter
- Complete and upload the Capstone Project consent form (E-2) to your <u>Ham-</u> <u>den.skills21</u> Launchpad portal . (Page 24)
- Your essay must be a minimum of 5-typed pages in length with sources as well as a works –cited page that all adheres to MLA or APA standards.

You must also complete the following below:

- Complete and upload the 5 Reflections (C1-C4 on Pages 46-48)
- Complete the <u>skills21 portal</u> activities which includes your home page, logo and video-trailer. (See due dates).
- Submit your paper, Complete and upload your final essay (Reflection 5 (C5)) with video of you and your project addressing the final essay questions or present it in person to your advisor. (Page 48)
- Optional: Please notify your advisor by June of 2022 if you will be enrolling in the "Capstone with Distinction" component which will entitle you to receive a cord for graduation as well as to present your project during the Showcase event night.

II. Project Development (Tasks 5-8)

C. Reflection Guidelines

COMPLETE THIS ONLINE AT HAMDEN.SKILLS21.ORG

The following guidelines below apply to all five of your Reflections. These five reflections are a personal record of your learning experience during your Capstone Project. They are an opportunity for you to share and reflect on your unique experiences. In addition, they will serve as a demonstration of the hard work you put into choosing a topic and successfully completing your Capstone project. It also allows you to show your organizational skills.

Reflection Expectations:

- Formatting Full Name and Reflection number placed in the top left corner. (EXAMPLE: John Smith Reflection 1)
- Using MLA guidelines, each essay should be typed, double-spaced and 12point plain font such as Times or Tahoma must be used.
- Answer all parts of each question/bulleted items using complete sentences. Proof-read your essay and answer in essay format (no lists, bullets, numbers, etc. within your essay).
- All Reflections must be uploaded to your Skills21 Launchpad Portfolio (https:// hamden.skills21.org/) and your Advisor's Google Classroom. If there is an uploading issue, a hard copy must be printed and submitted ahead of time. Before uploading, save all work to your Google Drive into a folder labeled, "Capstone."
- Essay Rubrics are located on page 76 of this section.
- Create a folder on your Google Drive and label each essay or document. (ex.: "C1 Essay Last Name", "C2 Essay Last Name", etc.)

All Reflections and work must be labelled and uploaded by you

II. Project Development (Tasks 5-8)

Reflection Guidelines

The following guidelines below apply to all five of your Reflections. These five reflections are a personal record of your learning experience during your Capstone Project. They are an opportunity for you to share and reflect on your unique experiences. In addition, they will serve as a demonstration of the hard work you put into choosing a topic and successfully completing your Capstone project. It also allows you to show your organizational skills.

Reflection Expectations:

- Formatting Full Name and reflection number placed in the top left corner. (EXAMPLE: John Smith Reflection 1)
- Using MLA guidelines, each essay should be typed, double-spaced and 12point plain font such as Times or Tahoma must be used.
- Answer all parts of each question/bulleted items using complete sentences. Proof-read your essay and answer in essay format (no lists, bullets, numbers, etc. within your essay).

• All Reflections must be uploaded to your Skills21 Launchpad Portfolio (https:// hamden.skills21.org/) and your Advisor's Google Classroom. If there is an uploading issue, a hard copy must be printed and submitted ahead of time. Before uploading, save all work to your Google Drive into a folder labeled, "Capstone."

All Reflections and work must be labelled and uploaded by you

C. Reflections

Task 5: Reflection 1 (C1)

Due: September 30, 2022

When writing this reflection, you will explain the reason you chose this topic for your research paper. Take your time to reflect on your purpose or focus and what you expect to learn from your research paper.

Utilize any 3 of the following questions as a guideline to help you complete this essay:

- Why did you choose this topic? Explain any personal connections you may have to this topic.
- What do you anticipate you will learn in your research based upon your proposal?
- Which of the questions might be the focus of your research? Explain your thinking.
- How did your research and conclusions make you a better person and/or possibly contribute to a better world?

Task 6: Reflection 2 (C2)

Due: October 28, 2022

This reflection will have you thinking about what you are actually doing and who you are interacting with as you continue to complete your Capstone project. Also, pay close attention to any unexpected challenges or issues encountered.

Utilize at least 3 of the following prompts to help you complete this essay:

- Why are you interested in working independently and/or with other people (mentor, advisor, community groups) in this field? Include information about your organization and field experience.
- How are you managing your time? (How are you balancing school work, job, sports, home, volunteer work, and the Capstone Project?) Do you use technology or calendars to do so?

• What are some of the problems you are experiencing? What is your plan to address these issues? Do you need help from someone else? Identify who you need help from and what help is needed. If you need help, please discuss your struggles with your Capstone Advisor and Guidance Counselor at least a week or more prior to a particular due date. (See due dates).

- What is going well with your Capstone Project?
- What is one thing about your approach to your project that you wish you could change and why?

C. Reflections

Task 7: Reflection 3 (C3)

Due: November 18, 2022

Unlike a traditional research paper, your Capstone Research paper is similar to a thesis, as it requires an idea or topic, a structure, and questions you must be prepared to answer. Your paper should include relevant and updated information related to the topic of your Capstone Project.

The following should guide and help you to complete this essay:

- Write your thesis statement. Your current research must support your thesis statement.
- Use at least **six varied and credible sources** in your research paper (ex: books, websites, databases, etc.) from your research that support your thesis.
- **Cite** the source for each piece of information **using parenthetical citation**. See Hamden High School's Library Media Center website for information about citations.
- Your paper must include more than these five pieces of information. This is a task to help move toward writing your rough draft.
- Also provide a draft of your works cited page that includes the sources researched to date (use MLA format).
- You may bring your notes and resources to your advisor or mentor.

Task 8: Reflection 4 (C4)

Due: December 16, 2022

Reflection 4 is actually a visual presentation that will demonstrate what you have accomplished and learned during your Capstone Project experience. This essay will help you to prepare you for your Oral Presentation. Your Oral Presentation should be approximately five-toseven minutes and should be supported by a visual component as well as a written component, which will include your Reflections. Be prepared to present it to your advisor rather than reading it verbatim from a paper or storyboard.

You will be required to complete the following in completing this essay:

- Create a visual document (time-line, PowerPoint, Tri-fold) that will serve as a script for your presentation.
- Presentations should strive to address the following questions:
 - 1. Why did I choose to do this project?
 - 2. How/why did this project enhance what I knew about this field or service?
 - 3. What new skills and knowledge have I acquired?
 - 4. How will what I learned during this project help me in the future?
- Attach a storyboard or outline to the reflection and answer the following:
 - What delivery method are you using for your presentation (Google Slides, YouTube, Poster board, Tri-Fold Board, etc.)?
 - Why did you choose this delivery method?
 - Why is it the most effective method for delivering your message?

Remember to include the following: the information you have gathered, the order in which you will present the information, the visuals/audio that best support your message.

IV. Project Exhibition (Task 9) C. Reflection 5 (C5)

Task 9: Final Reflection Oral / Video Essay 5 (C5) Due: January 28, 2023

Use the following questions and the visual you created from Reflection 4 to guide your completion of this essay. Your Oral Presentation should be approximately five-to-seven minutes and should be supported by a visual component as well as a written component, which will include your reflections. This may also be completed in person with your advisor instead of through video.

Use the following questions to guide your completion of this essay:

- What advice would you give upcoming Juniors about completing their Capstone Project?
- What advice would you give to Sophomores about the start of this process?
- What did you find was challenging for you? How did you challenge yourself through the project option you chose? Was there a risk? How did you face any challenges or overcome obstacles?
- What is one thing about your approach to your project that you wish you could change and why?
- What score would you give yourself for what you have accomplished through your Capstone Project? Use the rubric found on the next page to guide your response. Explain this score.
- What skills do you think you have mastered and what do you still need to work on?

V. Capstone with Distinction

This task is optional and must be selected by June of 2022. In addition to completing all prior requirements for your goal IN THE PASSING RANGE, you must present an in-person Showcase of your project at a designated location and date during your Senior year in February/ March of 2023. This event will involve presenting to your advisor, teachers, parents, and members of the Board of Education or broader community. On your presentation date, your Advisor will rate the quality and validity of your presentation.

Criteria	Score	Advisor Initials
Achieve a score of passing for all components	12345	
Present your Capstone project at the Showcase event	12345	
Quality of your project was exceptional.	12345	
Present your material in a logical order with appropriate introduction, transition and conclusion.	12345	
Demonstrate full understanding and knowledge of your project.	12345	
Professional appearance and behavior at the Show- case	12345	
Visual Component to Showcase presentation	12345	
Effective interaction with other guests and students.	12345	
Final Score (32 pts will qualify to receive the 1 pt need- ed for Distinction.)		

E-1 Contract & Original Work Form

PARENT/GUARDIAN APPROVAL: RESEARCH TOPIC, PRODUCT & REQUIREMENTS

Please Print the following page and Upload a picture of the signed document to Hamden.skills21.org

I am the parent/guardian of _______. I am aware that the Capstone Project is a performance-based assessment that is a requirement for graduation from Hamden High School. I and my student acknowledge that any academic dishonesty, such as falsification or plagiarism will result in a failing final grade (F) on the research paper or other project components. Also, my student cannot continue with the completion of the additional parts of the project.

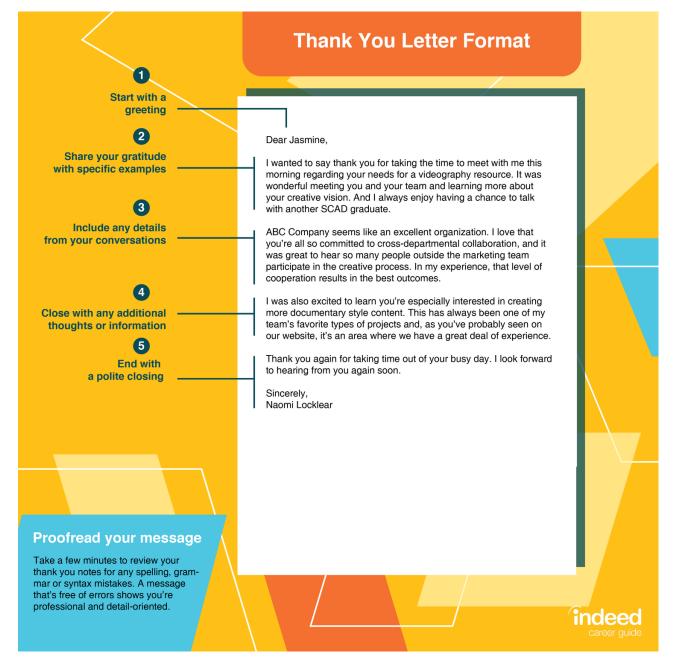
Statements of Approval:

- 1. Product: My student has selected the following project: _____
- 2. I acknowledge that I had full autonomy in choosing the research topic and selecting a related product to meet the capstone project's requirements. Also, the topic and product are outside of my student's recent experiences and level of expertise. I am aware that I take full responsibility for the capstone project's costs and any consequences resulting from this topic and product choice. Capstone Project Parent Approval & Acknowledgement: Research Topic, Product, & Requirements My student and I have reviewed and fully acknowledge all the Capstone Project require.
- 3. I attest that I will do all of the following in regard to ethics and producing original works:
- Demonstrate integrity by being honest, fair, equitable, and dignified.
- Practice acceptable methods of communicating on the Internet through emails and social media.
- Will not plagiarize or copy directly from a source without quoting or providing a citation to recognize the source of information and acknowledge the author(s). Use research information or materials without proper documentation on the citation pages, representing someone's work or product as your design. Allow a peer to present or use your work as their work, falsify or misrepresent. Forge the signatures of parent/guardian, mentor, or teacher on documents, Pay or allowing someone to write the paper or create the product or Engage a family member as the subject for interviews or as a mentor.
- Video Standards must adhere to the Hamden Public School Authorized use guidelines. Appropriate

Student Signature:	Date:	
Print:		
Parent/Guardian's Signature:	Date:	
Print:		
Cell/Home Phone:		
Work Phone:		
Email:		

E-3 Mentor Thank You Letter

You may use the following as a guide to write a thank you letter to your Mentor. Your mentor swill spend at least ten hours helping you through your Capstone Product development; so, you must express your appreciation for their mentorship. A personalized letter is the appropriate, professional expression of your gratitude. Use the Thank You Letter Template to complete your letter and review the article: General Thank You Letter Samples and Writing Tips. Thank You Letter Template.



https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/thank-you-letter-to-mentor

F. Research Paper Rubric

*Not completing the Final Project (IV) will result in a not passing score regardless of any other work submitted. Students can resubmit work within the timeline prior to the due date.

udent Name:		ID#
	Passing (3 pts each)	Not Passing (2 pts each)
Reflections 1-5	Addresses all expectations. (5 essays)	Does not address expectations. (0-1 essays)
	Each entry addresses all questions.	Entries are incomplete.
	Shows understanding of their topic; conducts research based on focused questions.	Minimally shows understanding of their topic; unclear if research is based on questions.
	Gathers relevant information from multiple sources, assesses the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrates the information while avoiding plagiarism.	Minimally gathers information from multiple sources, unclear in the credibility and accuracy of each source was assessed, and may or may not have integrated the information while avoiding plagiarism.
Capstone	Takes an original position and supports it convincingly.	Minimally an original position and does not support it convincingly.
Option 3 Inquiry Based Research	4-5 sources used and cited correctly with a works cited page.	0-1 sources used and cited correctly with a works cited page
Paper	Language usage and Points are demonstrated regularly with evidence, explanation and some insight.	Language usage and Points are not sufficiently demonstrated with evidence, explanation and some insight.
	Transitions, summary and conclusion are present.	Transitions, summary and conclusion are not or are minimally used.
	Thesis is addressed with counter-points.	Thesis is not addressed.
	Follows MLA format and guidelines.	Does not follow MLA format and guidelines.
	Expresses information in a clear, concise, logical, and passionate manner, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning.	Information is presented in a manner that is unclear/illogical and therefore is difficult to follow the line of reasoning.
	Competently elaborates on the topic in response to audience questions.	Minimally elaborates on the topic in response to audience questions.
Skills 21 Launchpad Presentations &	Final Project is submitted on time, is congruent with the proposal and is of comprehensive quality	Visuals (font, color, and design graphics) minimally enhance the presentation.
Final Project Sub- mission	Visuals (font, color, and design graphics) competently enhance the presentation.	Completed and uploaded few to none of the following to the <u>Hamden.skills21 Portal</u> Launchpad portal: Your Capstone Proposal, Home page with project trailer, with minimal effort and timeliness.
	Completed and uploaded most of the following to the <u>Hamden.skills21 Portal</u> : Your Capstone Proposal, Home page with project trailer, with quality and timeliness	Student does submit the final presentation or present to advisor
Capstone with Distinction	Must meet the criteria for Passing while demon- strating leadership, initiative and responsibility (per mentor attestment) and participates in the Showcase Presentation event at the end of the year.	
(Optional)	This is optional and this category is worth 1 pt. Please see Capstone with Distinction section/ rubric.	
Total Points		
Overall Performance (Circle one)	Passing 7-9 pts With Distinction 10 pts	Not passing 0-6 pts

G. Final Score Sheet Research Paper Project

Student Name:	ID#
Project Title:	
Email/Phone Number:	
Name of Advisor/Scorer:	
Capstone Project Score:	With Distinction (Passing 10 points with Requirements)
	Passing (7-9 points)
	Not Passing (0-6 points)
Advisor Initials:	
Comments:	

The points from each category of the following rubric will be combined for an aggregate total.