

# JUNIOR/SENIOR ASSESSMENT PAPER

**Requirements:** Juniors and Seniors in the Honors Program are required to attend six cultural events during the school year. They are also required to participate in an RSO and have a leadership position by the time they are juniors or seniors. Once reaching Honors junior and senior status, papers no longer have to be turned in for each event. (Reporting community service hours is still required.) Juniors and Seniors are required to submit a Junior or Senior Assessment Paper at the end of each of those years. The assessment paper will contain a synopsis of the cultural events you attended, the leadership post you assumed and the service you did.

**Juniors:** This paper should be handed in to the Honors Office no later than the last day of class in spring semester.

**Seniors:** You must bring your assessment paper in for your Honors Senior Exit Interview.

**Purpose and Approach:** Rather than have you fill out a report for each cultural event, we have decided to ask you to sit down during the second semester of your junior/senior years and give some thought to your social and academic life. How have those experiences which the Honors Program required you to do changed you over the years? What connections have you made between these events and life?

**Advice:** There is no formula for this paper. However, we do not want a list of events you went to followed by three sentences saying how wonderful each one was. You should think about the honors required courses, your leadership role, your service-related experience(s), and the various cultural events you attended over the last year or so. Reflect on how these activities and experiences have changed you, piqued interest in something, taught a lesson, seemed related to one another in some way, or just generally worked to some effect. Try to work in details of events and service, but also comment upon or analyze them.

The first person is fine for such an essay, and you should consider that you are writing to a general audience, not just the Honors Coordinator. In other words, rather than just jumping in and saying “we” went to Mexico and “you” seemed interested in hearing about it, you should write as if the essay might be printed in the **Endeavor** or in the *Torch*. We would like to print one or two in the *Endeavor*, or at least print parts of these, though we would not do so without your permission.

- Format:
- Title page
- Name and number on each page
- Four typed pages
- Times New Roman font
- 1,000 words
- Double spaced

- Staple pages

**Possibilities:** Do not slavishly use the following as models. Rather, see in them the kinds of possibilities you have to choose from.

-----Maybe there was an old saying you heard over and over as a kid, but it never made sense until you went to a cultural event. Then you started seeing the impact and wisdom of this statement in a variety of places.

-----Maybe you were challenged in some way by a teacher or a job or a speaker or an experience and set out to try to accomplish something over the school year in relationship to that challenge. Did it work? Why or why not? How did your cultural events or service work function as part of this challenge?

----- Maybe you went to a cultural event and because of that experience it added to the way you appreciated/perceived the next cultural event. Perhaps you tried to make connections to other events as a result of the cultural “encounter”.

----- Maybe you read a meaningful book, like *The World is Flat*, and it has given you a way to understand some of the service experiences and cultural events you have attended over the last year or so.

**Final Comment:** Some of you will come up with approaches quite different from the ones suggested above. That is fine. We want you to simply reflect and find some connections between events and ideas. In a sense, this is a connect the dots exercise.