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**YES Abroad 2018-2019**

**Final Capstone Project**

**Description:** The Capstone Project is a research project on a topic that you will individually choose, based on your interests. It is intended to provide you with a framework to document your exploration of your host country and will help you to develop a deeper understanding of the culture and community in which you live.The project is introduced early in the year so that you can start brainstorming ideas of what you might like to research, but you will likely undertake the majority of the work during the second half of your program. **The entire project will count for 30% of your final Global Citizen grade.**

*Examples of previous projects include:*

* English-language cookbook of recipes of local food
* Photo essay on a particular topic in your host country or community
* Planning and implementing volunteer activities at your school and analyzing the results
* Translating modern or ancient poetry and presenting your findings, or memorizing this poetry and reciting it aloud.
* Participation in and video essay on your participation in a local dance troupe
* Collection of reviews of locally-produced host country plays or films
* Apprenticeship with local artisan and exhibition or photo or video essay of your work
* Volunteering at a local organization or business that deals with an issue in your host community and analysis of what you have learned
* Tutoring students in your community on a topic (e.g. art, theater, or English) and a final project documenting and reflecting on that work

Your local coordinator, language partners, Global Citizen teacher and other teachers will be available to assist and guide you in arranging and coordinating elements of your project. You should not hesitate to research something about which you are truly passionate just because you do not know where to start looking for information.

**Lectures:** AMIDEAST has scheduled eight lectures as part of your program to help introduce you to Moroccan culture, history, arts, politics, and civil society in part to prepare you for your Capstone. These lectures are a way for you to learn about Morocco and discover more about topics you may be interested in pursuing as part of your Capstone project. Please make sure to reach out to the lecturers for more information about a topic that interests you, and pay attention to the lists of recommended readings provided with each lecture.

**Project Proposal:** You will use the proposal form (found at the end of this document) to develop your goal, to detail background and other relevant information on the topic you are exploring, to present a step-by-step description of your project, and to provide information on how you plan to share your project with the YES Abroad communities, and the world.

This project proposal form is simply a plan. Spend time during your first weeks thinking about what types of projects you could undertake and talking about these ideas with in-country staff. They can help give you a better idea of what is both culturally appropriate and realistic before you undertake the effort of filling out your project proposal form.

Plans can change. Once you start your project, you may find you are more interested in another aspect or project topic, people who you thought would work with you on your project no longer can, or any number of other possibilities. Therefore, the final project can differ from what you originally proposed; however, keep your in-country staff up to date on how your project is going and if it changes.

**Workshopping & Development of Projects:** The project proposal will be due in December. The proposal must be approved by Outman before you can begin your research. Once a proposal is approved, you are expected to create an outline of your project with projected dates so Outman can follow up on your progress. In March, the first draft of your project is due and you will have individual meetings and editing sessions with Outman and language partners/Arabic teachers. During the time between December and March, you will also be working with the Global Citizen instructor on an annotated bibliography to compile your academic sources. Finally, in April, you will present your project (in Moroccan Arabic or French) to the other students as well as members of the community. A presentation can range from an artistic display/performance, oral history, lecture, or any creative method with prior approval.

**Presentation of Projects:** During April, you will be expected to present your project in your target language (Moroccan Arabic, French or Amazigh) to a public audience. We will invite host families, AMIDEAST staff, US Embassy staff, language partners, teachers, and community members to attend these presentations. The grades from these presentations will count for half of your Capstone grade and you will be judged by a panel (of French or Arabic speakers, depending on the language you plan to present in) on the criteria below. Your presentation should be a minimum of ten (10) minutes and a maximum of (15) minutes. You will be stopped after 15 minutes. You will also have 5 minutes to receive and answer questions from the audience.

*Presentation Grading Criteria:*

* Organization of presentation
* Depth of research
* Explanation of the issue
* Elaboration of ideas
* Use of visual aids – pictures, video, or props are required
* Use of interviews or other contact with Moroccans
* Oral presentation skills:
  + Interaction with audience
  + Eye contact
  + Comfort and volume of speaking
  + Dependence of written notes
* Pronunciation
* Depth of vocabulary
* Respect of time limits

**Written Final Paper:** Before your presentation, you will also be expected to submit a written analysis and summary of your project and topic. Papers should be between **12-15 pages in English**.

In the paper, you must use MLA format, including in-text citations with page numbers. For an easy, online guide to how to format the bibliography and citations, please refer to the Purdue Online Writing Lab website: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/>

Papers should be typed and submitted via email 24 hours before your project presentation. Papers will be graded on the following criteria:

*Final Paper Grading Criteria:*

* Grammar, sentence structure, quality of writing, spelling
* Explanation/elaboration of the issue & depth of research
* Evidence of interviews or other original/creative research

**Grading Breakdown**

* Assignments (Proposal, timeline, etc.): 10%
* Final presentation: 50%
* Final paper: 40%

**Important Capstone Dates**

September: Introduction to Capstone Project

October: Meetings with Outman to discuss your project ideas

*December 21, 2018: YES Abroad Proposal for Project due at 10:00pm*

*December 28, 2018: YES Abroad Individual Project Meetings with Outman to discuss Proposals*

*January 14, 2019: YES Abroad Capstone Project Work Timelines due at 12:00pm*

*March 8, 2019: YES Abroad Project Paper First Draft & Annotated Bibliography due at 12:00pm*

*March 28, 2019: YES Abroad Capstone Preparation Day with Language Partners*

*March 29, 2019: YES Abroad Project Papers Due*

*April 1, 2019: YES Abroad Presentation of Projects*

**Capstone Project**

Project Proposal Form

Submission Date:

Implementing Organization:

Name:

Program Year:

City and Country Where You Currently Live:

Location Where Project Will Be Completed (if different than above):

Project Start and End Date:

Project Title:

Project Goal: *The goal**is the overall aim of the entire project. (One to two sentences)*

Background: *In this section, describe in detail the topic or cultural aspect you plan to explore. What are the origins of this topic in your host country or community? Why the topic is of particular interest to you? How will your project address this topic in more detail? (3-5 paragraphs)*

Project Description: *In this section, describe your project and its component activities* ***in detail****. Show how this project will meet the goal you have identified above. (3-5 paragraphs)*

Project Presentation: *How will you present this project to the local audience in a creative way? What plans do you have for the final presentation? How will you involve the audience? Additionally, how do you plan to share the results of your project with the YES Abroad or NSLI-Y community and your friends and family in the United States? Do you see a way to expand upon this project in the future if it is successful? (3-5 paragraphs)*

SAMPLE CAPSTONE TIMELINE

DATE TASKS COMPLETED

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| FRIDAY, FEB 5th | * have questions completed and translated in Arabic |
| FRIDAY, FEB 12th | * have survey effectively being spread via social media |
| FRIDAY, FEB 19th | * find 6 girls and 6 boys willing to have a small group discussion (separate) * find 5 couples to photograph, short interview |
| FRIDAY, FEB 26th | * have both of the small discussions by this day * find 5 more couples to photograph, to interview |
| FRIDAY, MAR 4th | * have notes compiled and conclusions drawn from discussions * have at least first 5 of the couple photograph and interviewed |
| FRIDAY, MAR 11th | * stop the survey: compile your answers in one location, draw conclusion * have second 5 of the couples interviewed and photographed |
| FRIDAY, MAR 18th | * this is the week where you analyze your findings |
| FRIDAY, MAR 25th | * this is the week where you create the timeline of your presentation (when you will talk about what, and when) and skeleton of your power point |
| FRIDAY, APRIL 1st | * Have the photos you need for your power point, put them in the power point |
| WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6th | **ROUGH DRAFT OF PROJECT** |
| FRIDAY, APRIL 8th | * Have short photo interviews typed up in Arabic |
| FRIDAY, APRIL 15th | * Have short interview photos printed nicely * Have script of presentation written |
| FRIDAY, APRIL 22nd | * Have script of presentation revised and written again better |
| FRIDAY, APRIL 29th | * Practice, any last minute changes |
| FRIDAY, MAY 6th | **PROJECT COMPLETE** |