

Senior Forum Details

In the Senior Forum, you will share with an audience of peers and community members an issue of environmental relevance that has engaged you during your time at the School of Environmental Studies. In your speech, you should model thoughtful, informed decision-making and encourage the sustainable environmental actions cited in the application of the SES mission.

A student who has traveled to the Yucatan Peninsula and become aware of the degradation of the coral reef due to contamination from human waste entering the bay in Akumal, may choose to explain the process by which that contamination occurs and examine proposed solutions to that degradation.

A student who values hunting as a reasonable management process for the white tailed deer, may examine deer populations and the role of management of non-endangered species.

A student encouraged by market driven incentives to reducing environmental pollution may choose to examine incentives that have proven effective and speak to the future of American environmental policy.

A student who has studied transportation issues may examine the current proposal for the Cedar Avenue Transit Corridor being proposed in Apple Valley.

Considerations:

- **Area of Interest:** What area of sustainability concerns me the most?
- **Rationale:** Why have I chosen this focus?
- **Understanding:** What background knowledge have I acquired about this topic?
- **Awareness:** What programs/plans/models/proposals are in place to address this topic?
- **Assessment:** How can I evaluate the sustainability of the community in regards to my issue?
- **Action:** What should be done?
- **Conclusion:** What is my final passionate personal statement regarding this topic?

Each student will:

- Prepare a brief proposal of their forum topic and presentation plan, to be approved by one of the Environmental Studies teachers.
- Conduct in-depth research into the topic, keeping a record of all notes and sources
- Prepare a detailed outline for the presentation, demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of the complexities of the topic. The outline should contain all of the necessary support and amplification for a public presentation.
- Assemble a folder or binder that includes research notes, a bibliography, and any drafts and peer review sheets created as part of the writing process.
- Prepare a presentation manuscript or notes from the outline, to assist in delivery.
- Practice the presentation carefully, receiving feedback on the rehearsals to create the most effective presentation possible.
- Invite no fewer than four adults to their presentation. These should, of course, include parents or guardians.
- Speak to an audience of approximately thirty peers and community members.
- Be professionally dressed for the presentation.
- Be prepared to entertain questions from the audience.
- Be a good audience member for the presentations of others, and complete evaluation sheets for those sessions they attend.

A successful presentation will:

- Be no less than seven and no more than nine minutes in length.
- Be accompanied by effective graphic aids, using PowerPoint or other media as appropriate.
- Be polished and prepared, displaying understanding of effective delivery techniques.
- Clearly establish the speaker's environmental outlook and recommendations on the topic in the minds of the audience.
- Be organized in such a way that the audience can easily trace the speaker's thinking.
- Be accompanied by a bound research package.