

Personal Project Criteria

Native American History and culture has taught us that there is a deep spiritual connection to tasks associated with everyday life. We understand that even the most straightforward of tasks sometimes held significant cultural meaning and personal reflection.

With this understanding in mind, Westward Waters has chosen to allow each participant to create their own personal project as one of the year two requirements.

Certain factors must be considered when choosing a personal growth project.

1. Is the project something that culturally ties the learner to a situation, event, activity, ceremony, or practice of the Native American experience?
2. Is the project something outside of the learner's normal comfort area? Is this something that you have never experienced before or something beyond your normal sphere of everyday living?
3. Is the project something that takes thoughtful reflection and personal introspection? Is research required? Is personal contact with a professional in the field or a cultural expert required?
4. Is the project creative and unique to the learner?
5. Will the project take time? Is it something that can be finished in a weekend or is it something that requires several sessions over time?

The following elements will be required:

1. A written essay on why the project was selected. The personal reasons that led you to this project and how or why you chose it. (One typed page will be sufficient.)
2. Documentation of the process of the project. A written or photo journal, PowerPoint, video, or other means of documenting the process of the project.
3. A bibliography of resources and people you consulted and utilized to create your project.
4. Final submission of project – If the project is an item you have created, we would like to physically see the project. If the project is written or a performance, we would like a copy of the item and/or a video of the performance.

It has been suggested that we plan a "museum" of projects. This is still under consideration and will be discussed in greater detail during our summer travels.

If you have any questions or suggestions about your projects, please do not hesitate to contact either Diane or Nancy to discuss your ideas.

All projects will be due on or before November 1, 2004. While this date is past the year 2 finish date, we understand the time issues of a new school year.