

## **Senior Capstone Project**

A Character Education Partnership (CEP) Promising Practice

### **West Springfield High School**

Springfield, Virginia

Focus on Principles 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9 as students integrate core values into academic assignments that support moral action, student engagement, intrinsic motivation and student leadership.

Grade levels: 9012

West Springfield High School's "Senior Capstone Project" is a research-based service-learning project where seniors choose a topic of their choice, and go through the five stages of service learning: investigation, preparation, action, reflection, and demonstration. The project has five basic tenets, as well: Participating in Civic Life, Promoting Intellectual Autonomy, Synthesizing Interdisciplinary Skills, Cultivating Research and Presentation Skills, and Encouraging Academic Rigor. The capstone project is delivered through both US/VA Government and English 12 classes to achieve the goal of interdisciplinary synthesis. WSHS also integrates community involvement by having the top projects, as evaluated by classroom teachers, present on their research and action and judged by community members awarding high achievers. The Capstone Project also maintains a balance between character education and academic skill building. Students participate in lessons where they learn about what makes a good citizen, as well as complete a personal inventory to prepare for the year-long learning experience. They also write a research-based paper and present both their research findings and service experience to their peers as one of two culminating reflection pieces.

#### Contact

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