**Assignment 4**

**Submit completed and signed form to your Advisor**

**Parental Permission/Release for Participation**

This completed form is to be signed and returned to the Advisor.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned, being the parent or guardian of above student, hereby authorizes this student to attend and participate in the Lower Merion High School Senior Project for the current school year.

It is understood and agreed that transportation for this student to and from the location of the Senior Project site is the responsibility of the student and the parent(s) or guardians). The undersigned acknowledges that there is insurance coverage provided by student, parent, or guardian for student while traveling to and from the location of the Senior Project site and that the amount of this coverage is satisfactory to the undersigned.

In consideration of the training and experience that this student will receive through this program, the undersigned agrees to release and to indemnify, defend and hold harmless, including reasonable attorneys’ fees, the Lower Merion School District and its employees and representatives and the employer of Mentor and their employees, agents and representatives from any claims or liability of any kind arising out of this program including, without limitation, injuries to student, or third parties, as a result of action or inaction of student. It is also understood that parents/guardians will have knowledge of the students stated activities during the experiential phase as well as any products and their content that is produced as a result of the Senior Project.

Intending to be legally bound hereby, the undersigned executes this Authorization and Release on the date indicated below.

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Signature of Parent or Guardian (Date)

**How do I find a mentor/placement who/which will help me pursue my essential question?**

Introduction: In order to find an excellent placement, you will need to understand that a good placement is not just a place but also a place where a mentor will guide you. The mentor will sign an agreement saying that he/she will act as mentor in your pursuit of your essential question, be the person to whom you will answer, and sign off on your 70 hours. Therefore, when approaching a potential mentor, you will want to bring your notebook because the notebook represents all of the thinking that you have done on your project so far. It includes what you want to pursue, research in that area, and most important, your essential question. Your potential mentor will be very interested in knowing that you have given this placement some serious thought. The potential mentor will also ask you questions about the project itself. It will be useful to bring the senior project handbook along. With this information and thoughtfulness, you should have a good chance finding a mentor and good placement for your project.

Instructions: In your Senior Project notebook, answer the following question and respond to the following assignment. Bring this notebook and the handbook to your next meeting with your advisor where you will discuss the steps of the project.

Questions: 1. Reflecting on your essential question, do you know anyone that works in your area of interest? List those people.

2. List all the people in your personal network.

*Note: A personal network includes all the people that you know or come in contact with on a regular basis, such as friends, family, your friend’s family, family friends, neighbors, teachers, classmates, doctors, shopkeepers, etc. You never know who might know someone that can be a possible placement/mentor or knows someone who can help. Your chances of finding a satisfying mentor/placement is better if you talk to more people and tell more people about your interest and project.*

Conclusion: Many adults, in fact most adults, are intensely interested in helping young people in real world projects. Don’t be afraid to approach people in your personal network with your ideas about your senior project. Additionally, you might find that when you approach one person about your project, you will also meet a number of other people who can be helpful. Secretaries, assistants, colleagues of the person that you intend to see often are just as helpful as the person that you intend to see. While looking for a placement, you automatically extend your network of contacts.