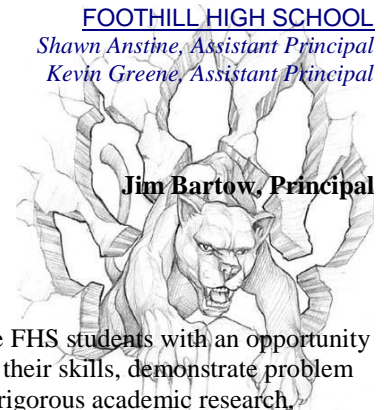




FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL
Shawn Anstine, Assistant Principal
Kevin Greene, Assistant Principal



Cougar Challenge Mission Statement: The objective of the Cougar Challenge is to provide FHS students with an opportunity to begin preparing for life after high school. This challenge urges students to take stock of their skills, demonstrate problem solving, practice self-directed learning, use decision-making capabilities, and to engage in rigorous academic research, writing, and speaking while using multimedia technology. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated; students caught cheating on this assignment will forfeit participation in graduation ceremonies.

Cougar Challenge Requirements:

With this challenge we focus on our literacy goals of solid reading, research, writing, and speaking skills. All seniors must complete the requirements below with **PASSING SCORES** in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. There will be opportunities given to improve papers and presentations which score below 60% initially. Those students who are not currently taking English on the FHS campus (except those enrolled at College Connection) are advised to choose an on-campus teacher to assist them with the paper and presentation, and to keep up with deadlines.

1. Write a 10-page minimum research paper on a topic of interest that is approved beforehand by faculty. Follow MLA guidelines. The paper must state a position, or thesis, and be supported with research; all sources used in research must be cited using in-text citations and a works cited page. Further requirements regarding number and types of sources will be posted later and addressed in English classes.
2. Develop and present an 8-minute minimum presentation using the content of your paper. Use a multimedia program such as PowerPoint as a visual aide during your presentation, which will be judged by FHS staff and community judges. While some instructional time will include lessons on topic selection, writing a thesis, MLA, etc., students should expect to use time outside of class to work on most of this challenge.

2011-2012 COUGAR CHALLENGE TIMELINE

Wednesday, October 5, 2011: Preliminary topic and thesis due in English

Wednesday, January 25, 2012: First draft of research is due in English

Wednesday, March 7, 2012: Final draft of research is due in Econ/Gov.

Wednesday, March 14, 2012: Speech outline is due in English

Wednesday, April 11, 2012: Abstract due in English

Tuesday-Thursday, April 24, 25, 26, 2012: Senior Boards during STAR test week

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Signatures below indicated receiving Cougar Challenge information and understanding of the consequences of plagiarism/cheating on this requirement for participation in graduation ceremonies.

Student Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature