

## North Carolina Graduation Project Sample Topics, Theses, and Products

**Research Topic:**

Choreography (Dance)

**Possible Thesis:**

An important focus of modern choreography is thematic development.

**Products:**

Interview a choreographer about their motivation towards choreography and apply that focus to an original work.

**Research Topic:**

Lighting Effect

**Possible Thesis:**

Front lighting is more effective than back lighting for small house theatrical productions.

**Products:**

Create a portfolio of lighting effects.

**Research Topic:**

Art Museums

**Possible Thesis:**

The recent trend towards “hands-on” learning in museums has resulted in heightened artistic interests.

**Products:**

Volunteer at an Art Museum.

**Research Topic:**

Teaching Music

**Possible Thesis:**

Increased learning in music develops academic achievement.

**Products:**

Participate in early music instruction.

**Research Topic:**

The development and use of nanotechnologies

**Possible Thesis:**

The use of nanotechnology has had a profound impact on the way we do medicine in today’s world.

**Product:**

Visit a pharmaceutical company and interview an employee about the changes brought on by nanotechnology.

**Research Topic:**

The effects of the Internet on the music industry

**Possible Thesis:**

The availability of music, both legal and illegal, on the Internet has had both negative and positive impacts on the music industry.

**Product:**

Interview a music producer and a music store owner and/or conduct surveys on the type of media people are choosing for their music (online or physical).

**Research Topic:**

Teaching elementary students how to use the Internet safely and properly

**Possible Thesis:**

Elementary students who learn to use the Internet safely and properly can conduct better research without being exposed to improper content.

**Product:**

Create a guide for elementary students on how to use the Internet safely and responsibly for research and then use it to teach a group of elementary students.

**Research Topic:**

The evolution of the use of robotics in the medical field

**Possible Thesis:**

The use of robotics in the medical has been evolving over the past fifty years.

**Product:**

Develop a multimedia presentation showing the timeline and evolution of the use of robotics in the medical field.

**Research Topic:**

The crucial events of the Civil Rights Movement in North Carolina

**Possible Thesis:**

Many significant events took place in North Carolina during the Civil Rights Movement.

**Product:**

Create a podcast or wiki regarding one of the most pivotal events that took place.

**Research Topic:**

Influence of the internet on publishing

**Possible Thesis:**

The increased publication of books since rise of the internet has had a profound impact on literacy in America.

**Product:**

Interview and shadow a published author.

**Research Topic:**

Influence of reading to children.

**Possible Thesis:**

Children who are read to from infancy become better readers and better overall students.

**Product:**

Conduct surveys and volunteer in a day care setting serving as a “reader” to children.

**Research Topic:**

Influence of advertising on children.

**Possible Thesis:**

Advertising does not have an adverse effect on children.

**Product:**

Create positive advertising using several different media.

**Research Topic:**

Censorship in schools.

**Possible Thesis:**

Schools should not censor texts from the curriculum.

**Product:**

Create lesson plans for use of a controversial piece of literature in the high school English class.

**Research Topic:**

The media and its influence

**Possible Thesis:**

Major global events and issues desensitize the public.

**Product:**

Conduct surveys and measure attitudes toward today’s media.

**Research Topic:**

Obesity in children and its effects.

**Possible Thesis:**

Obese children have weaker academic performance than children who are not obese.

**Product:**

Create an awareness education program on active lifestyles in children vs. sedentary lifestyles.

**Research Topic:**

Addictive potential of tobacco, the role of public health agencies in reducing tobacco rates, and the fiscal impact of tobacco reduction rates on tobacco farmers.

**Possible Thesis:**

There are financially viable options for agriculture other than tobacco farming.

**Product:**

Identify alternative agricultural products and put together a multimedia presentation for the county commissioners.

**Research Topic:**

A comparison of current diet programs.

**Possible Thesis:**

All diets are not created equal.

**Product:**

Research and interview with different commercial diet programs, online diet programs, nutritionists and doctors to compare their long-term success rates and weight loss recommendations.

**Research Topic:**

Benefits of cardiovascular exercise on blood pressure.

**Possible Thesis:**

Daily exercise can improve blood pressure.

**Product:**

Compare weight training, cardiovascular exercise and a combination of the two. Conduct an experiment to compare the effects of blood pressure and various types of exercise.

**Research Topic:**

Performance enhancing drugs and the US athlete.

**Possible Thesis:**

Although famous athletes have been recently convicted of taking performance enhancing drugs, the public opinion of these athletes has not diminished.

**Product:** Interview or survey high school athletes as to their perception of athletes that have taken performance enhancing drugs and the possibility that they would take drugs to promote their athletic prowess.

**Research Topic:**

The causes and effects of adult illiteracy in North Carolina

**Possible Thesis:**

Adult illiteracy in North Carolina has a huge impact on our society.

**Product:**

Create a presentation that includes charts showing the causes and effects of adult illiteracy in North Carolina

**Research Topic:**

The effects of the media, both printed and electronic, on public opinion of a topic such as global warming, illegal immigration, etc.

**Possible Thesis:**

Media, both printed and electronic, has a large influence on public opinion of topics such as global warming., illegal immigration, etc.

**Product:**

Develop and conduct an online survey to explore the influence of media on public opinion.

**Research Topic:**

The role of libraries in the American democratic process

**Possible Thesis:**

Libraries have played a major role in the American democratic process over the past 50 years.

**Product:**

Create a presentation, including a timeline, that shows direct and indirect roles that libraries have played in the American democratic process over the past 50 years.

**Research Topic:**

The effects of violence in video games on teenagers in America

**Possible Thesis:**

Violent video games have impacted America's teenagers in many ways.

**Product:**

Conduct a survey of teenagers who play video games versus those who do not to gauge their sensitivity to violence. Present the results and the research found in a presentation.

**Research Topic:**

The causes and effects of out-sourcing in the manufacturing and information technology sectors

**Possible Thesis:**

Out-sourcing of vital jobs in the manufacturing and information technology sectors has had a negative impact on our economy.

**Product:**

Create a video in which you interview people who have been directly affected by out-sourcing.

**Research Topic:**

North Carolina tourism

**Possible Thesis:**

North Carolina's tourism has a positive impact on the state economy.

**Product:**

Conduct volunteer services at a NC State Park.

**Research Topic:**

Physics of a roller coaster

**Possible Thesis:**

With the increase of force and speed of a rollercoaster, head and neck trauma injuries increase.

**Product:**

Build a model roller coaster.

**Research Topic:**

Fashion design

**Possible Thesis:**

Fashion design ideas recycle from decade to decade.

**Product:**

Design a modern fashion portfolio using ideas from prior decades.

**Research Topic:**

Home energy-efficiency

**Possible Thesis:**

The energy-efficiency of a home is affected by the architectural materials used.

**Product:**

Draw blueprints and make a model of an energy-efficient home.

**Research Topic:**

Yield of a crop

**Possible Thesis:**

Various types of soil impact the yield of a crop or plant.

**Product:**

Develop, plant, and harvest a crop using various types of soil and measure yields.

**Research Topic:**

Effects of caffeine

**Possible Thesis:**

The use of caffeine as a substitute for sleep has a negative effective on a student's physiological and psychological well being.

**Product:**

Conduct an experiment on the effect of caffeine.

**Research Topic:**

Flight.

**Possible Thesis:**

North Carolina has a right to proclaim "First in Flight".

**Product:**

Create a presentation about North Carolina's participation in the history of flight.

**Research Topic:**

Use of robotics in the medical field.

**Possible Thesis:**

Robotics can be used to alleviate human error in surgery.

**Product:**

Interview surgeons who utilize robotics in their surgical practice.

**Research Topic:**

Conservation methods for home fuel.

**Possible Thesis:**

Home energy conservation is economically worthwhile.

**Product:**

Analyze home energy conservation practices in the community.

**Research Topic:**

Influence of electrical fields on plants.

**Possible Thesis:**

Electrical fields can be used to stimulate growth in plants.

**Product:**

Conduct an experiment on the growth of plants.

**Research Topic:**

Second Language Teaching

**Possible Thesis:**

It is better to begin second language instruction at an early age rather than in adolescence.

**Product:**

Observe and teach a lesson in a second language with children ages 5-10.

**Research Topic:**

Economic impact of Spanish-speakers on county economics.

**Possible Thesis:**

Hispanic-owned businesses are making positive contributions to the business community in Union County.

**Product:**

Research, list and interview Hispanic-owned businesses in the county.

**Research Topic:**

Translation needs and requisite skills in the medical community.

**Possible Thesis:**

Translators are a valuable resource in a hospital setting.

**Product:**

Interview county hospital/s about needs for languages other than English. Shadow a translator.

**Research Topic:**

Diversification of North Carolina and Union County.

**Possible Thesis:**

People moving to the area are bringing with them greater exposure to diverse cultures.

**Product:**

Create a survey that asks about the language and ethnic groups represented in the incoming students' previous community environment.

**Research Topic:**

Signs of globalization and diversification in Union County and North Carolina.

**Possible Thesis:**

Union County is becoming more multilingual.

**Product:** Work at the ESL Intake Center. Interview the growing Russian and Mexican immigrants in the county about why they moved to the area.

**Research Topic:**

1957-2007: Foreign Films and the US market.

**Possible Thesis:**

The US movie industry is being influenced by foreign films.

**Product:**

Watch film makeovers that originated in other countries. Address the changes from one language and culture to the other.

**Research Topic:**

Non-English language newspapers in the greater Charlotte area.

**Possible Thesis:**

Non-English language newspapers promote businesses and community growth that are minimally addressed in the English-language press.

**Product:**

Compare the topics and advertisers in the non-English language newspapers in the greater Charlotte area.

**Research Topic:**

Leaders in minority language groups in Union County and Charlotte.

**Possible Thesis:**

Community character is undergoing change in the local area.

**Product:**

Interview churches, government agencies and business owners to discern grassroots' changes in non-English language groups.

**Research Topic:**

Election Procedures

**Possible Thesis:**

The simplification of election procedures is an exercise in futility.

**Products:**

Conduct a political exit poll and analyze the data

**Research Topic:**

Vietnam Era

**Possible Thesis:**

The Vietnam War drastically divided the country into two camps—the hawks and the doves.

**Products:**

Conduct and interview with individuals from the era representing both camps.

**Research Topic:**

Alternative fuel sources

**Possible Thesis:**

Investing in alternative fuel sources by municipalities will result in a reduction of expenditures and a minimized carbon footprint.

**Products:**

Construct a model of a solar powered home.

**Research Topic:**

Neighborhood watch programs

**Possible Thesis:**

Neighborhood watch programs directly result in a decrease in crime

**Products:**

Participate in a neighborhood watch program

**Research Topic:**

Museums

**Possible Thesis:**

The recent trend towards “hands-on” learning in museums has resulted in heightened historical interest.

**Products:**

Volunteer at a Museum