

Whitfield Career Academy

Project Overview

Project Title: *Play Dead: A Night of Murder & Mystery*

Project Authors: Lindsey Ott, Ben Williams, Scott Cook, Jessica Ashlock, Karen Corley, and Eric White, Whitfield Career Academy

Subject Areas: American Literature & Composition, United States History, Math II, Biology

Grade Level and Location: 10th Grade, 200 Hallway

Duration: Approximately 4 Months (Scheduled Sporadically Throughout Semester)

Driving Question: *Whodunit?*

Project Summary: Students write a murder mystery script to be presented to parents, teachers, and surrounding community. They will write a complex plot, act out roles, design costumes, operate a soundboard, control lighting, build props and backdrops, create promotional materials, and document the process.

Major Student Products:

Individual – Written and Oral Project Proposal, Three Informational Essays, Album Cover, Music Video
Collaborative – Murder Mystery Presentation of Learning Night

How the Project Was Conceived and Planned: The project began as a way to build on the strengths of our students. They are a very creative group that loves to perform and work collaboratively. While they have been able to put on great presentations in the past, we felt it to be important to involve the audience more in the experience. A murder mystery will allow students to interact with our guests and send them down a journey of inquiry and investigation. We also wanted to have a Presentation of Learning that was heavily focused and rooted in science content. The students will learn about genetics, forensics, and other scientific content that will be used as a platform to write a compelling script.

Entry Activity: We will begin this project on November 18th and the students will get some entry level skill building activities that will feed into the writing and producing of the Murder Mystery.

