*Romeo and Juliet* Project Options

Here is a list of possible topics for our unit on Shakespeare and Romeo and Juliet. Read through the topics and brief explanations. Decide which one you’d rather do. If you decide on one of the projects with a star (\*) beside it, you will need to get the detailed instruction sheet for that project. If you have questions or ideas for your own project, please feel free to discuss these with the teacher.

\*Option #1: **Making It Real**—Research “real life” Romeos and Juliets. You will find a minimum of three articles with some of the themes in Romeo and Juliet, one of which must be teenage suicide. You should summarize your findings and complete a comparison of the articles as well as a comparison of the articles and the play. (1 person)

Option #2: **Newspaper** ---Create a newspaper that chronicles the events of the play. Include advertisements, entertainment, editorials, sports, and feature stories. Give your newspaper a catchy title and make sure to provide bylines. You will also need a comic strip and two other aspects of your desire that are featured on typical newspapers. (1-2 people)

Option #3: **Survey Says** ---Most members of the freshman class read *Romeo and Juliet*. Create a survey which reflects the opinions of at least 70 freshmen regarding Shakespeare and the play’s characters, plot, the adaptations of it, whether or not it should be required reading by the state of North Carolina and why, favorite characters/lines/scenes/etc. Report your findings in a flyer, graph, posters, and/or PowerPoint presentation. Note: It will be up to you to discuss surveying in other English classes, but your teacher can make suggestions on whom to see and when to see him/her. (1-3 people)

\*Option #4: **Essay**--- Choose from a list of essay topics on which you will write a minimum 5-paragraph essay using examples from the play to back up your ideas and assertions. (1 person)

Option #5: **Dear Diary**--- Write a diary entry for either Romeo or Juliet for each day of the play. Include the major events which occur to that character during each day and what his/her thoughts are on the matter. Present it in a “diary” with cover art that represents that character. (1 person)

Option #6 : **What If?**--- Write an alternative Act V (with at least as many lines as the original Act V). This will need to be acted out in class or performed on video for the class to watch. (3-4 people. . . but you may need to “employ” extras for casting purposes)

\*Option #7: **Shakespeare’s Rap**---Modeled after *The Cosby Show*, create and perform a rap that tells the story of Romeo and Juliet. The rap needs to be at least three minutes long and should be memorized. You may perform it live or via video.

Option #8: **The Rock Musical**--- Create the “soundtrack” for *Romeo and Juliet*. You will need a minimum of seven songs that match with acts and scenes in the play. You will have to explain in writing when the song should be played and how the audience will “hear” the song on the movie or on the stage. They you will write a brief explanation of why that song fits the scene. You should also burn the songs to disc and provide cover art. (1-2 people)

\*Option #9: **Movie Critique** --- Watch one of the versions of *Romeo and Juliet* and complete a movie critique comparing the original text with the film adaptations. (1 person)

\*Option #10: **A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words** --- Create a storybook/photo album for the play. Your task is to tell the story using photographs and/or images with specific lines that you choose from Shakespeare. You must choose what you will depict in your book and which words best match those pictures. Remember that the media center has digital cameras that you ARE allowed to check out with a parent’s or guardian’s signature. If you use pictures and images off websites that are not free, you must cite your sources in a works cited page. You are NOT allowed to use any screenshots or images from any movies or books already produced. (1 person)

\*Option #11: **Critical Analysis**--- Read the three critical essays about Romeo and Juliet. Then write an essay that compares what the authors say about the play. Agree or disagree with four points that are made in the essays and tell why you agree or disagree. You may need to strengthen your argument with specific examples from the text. (1 person)

Option #12: **A New Spin**--- Choose one of the scenes listed below to rewrite in a chosen language and perform in a new time period (anachronism). You will need to video tape your performance and include props, costumes, etc. The written script should be submitted to the teacher, and the video should be shown to the class. Lines should be memorized. (1-2 people)

Choose from Act I scenes iv-v; Act II scenes i-ii; Act III scene i; Act III scenes ii-iii