The leap from high school to adulthood and the NEXT BIG THING involves tough choices, tight timelines, and decisive action. These assignments are meant to help you with the transition.

Each quarter you will complete a different project from the menu below. No repeats. Be practical about your choices. Is a scholarship deadline approaching? Do you need to get started on those Common App essays? Delicately ask for a teacher recommendation? Make college visit travel plans? Pick a major? Map out a degree? Talk with a college rep? Get real about a budget? Choose assignments that you probably need to do anyway.

<table>
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<th>Due Dates</th>
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<td>1st Q – Wednesday, September 18th</td>
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<td>2nd Q – Wednesday, November 13th</td>
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**Project Menu Options**

**Map It Out**
Create a visual roadmap for this year’s “To Do List.” Include every deadline and target you’ll face this year beyond your classwork obligations. Consider anything: Do you need to take (or retake) the SAT? Seek out letters of recommendation? Sign up for AP Tests? Plan for prom? Schedule college visits? Submit college applications, Tackle the FASA? Send graduation announcements? Other? Make it visual. Break it down. Get granular.

**The College Sales Pitch**
Meet with at least 3 different college representatives, take notes about your observations, and make a chart to differentiate each school. In addition to your chart, attach a handout or email a selfie with the rep to show that you attended. **FYI:** Many colleges and universities send recruiters to do information sessions around the country – many of them nearby. Here’s a link for an event in Tucson, 9/19, that includes reps from Harvard, Duke, Georgetown, U. Penn, and Stanford. [https://www.exploringcollegeoptions.org/#AZ](https://www.exploringcollegeoptions.org/#AZ)

**Little Things Add Up**
Use a “Net Price Calculator” to determine the true cost of living at and attending 3 different learning institutions you’re considering. Make a chart to compare. This US News link is a good place to start your research: [https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/features/net-price-calculator](https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/features/net-price-calculator)

**The Keys Research Internship at the University of Arizona (1st or 2nd Quarter option only)**
The application window opens September 29 and closes December 3rd. Submit hard copy verification of your completed application submission. For more information: [https://keys.arizona.edu/](https://keys.arizona.edu/)

**Follow Your Money**
Track and record your personal spending for 7 straight days. Every. Single. Cent. In a one-page narrative, discuss what you observed about your spending habits as well as your values and feelings about money, and then identify 3 short term and 3 long term financial goals. Here’s a good place to start: [https://www.mappingyourfuture.org/money/budget.cfm](https://www.mappingyourfuture.org/money/budget.cfm)

**Information Hygiene**
Take a deep-dive into the user agreement for an app on your phone. Print it out, highlight items of note, and mull over the privacy implications. Submit the annotated document along with a one-page reflection about what you discovered, and on a personal level what you’re okay with giving away and what’s not okay. Listen to the Fresh Air podcast “How Tech Companies Track Your Every Move and Sell Your Data” if you really want to freak out about it.
Intellectual Curiosity Bucket List
Create a list of at least 20 things you want to explore or skills you want to acquire during your lifetime. Choose 2 of the 20 and plot out concrete steps you would need to take in order to make it happen.

Work-Life Balance
Create a method to track how you spend your time for 7 straight days, including meals, rest, sleep, digital media, family, fun, friends, alone time, etc. I have a Time Management worksheet if you want to use it. Turn in your log along with a one page reflection about what you observed, and a targeted plan of action to maintain or create a healthy balance.

DIY
Design a project that meets your specific needs. You must get my approval first: submit a detailed proposal about what you hope to gain, how you’ll go about it, and how you’ll show your work. In the spirit of self-direction, you may also request permission to tweak any of these menu options to better suit you. Just ask first please!

Senior only options

A Common Experience
Complete the Common App and turn in hard copies of all parts of the application – including your essay responses. Extra credit if you also submit supplemental essays required by specific schools. https://www.commonapp.org/

Pima Community College
Submit verification of application and all placement test results. This is NOT an option if you’re already a PCC student. Extra credit if you apply to the honors program. Double extra credit you meet with Dr. Vornado and get a selfie with him – but make an appointment first! More details: https://www.pima.edu/programs-courses/honors/index.html

Sun Devils, Lumberjacks, and Wildcats – oh my!
Apply to 2 of Arizona’s 3 in-state universities. Turn in verification of application submission, a hard copy of all required essays, and a selfie of you wearing the school’s logo. Extra credit for submitting honors college applications with essays.

Flinn Foundation Scholarship (1st Quarter option only – the application deadline is September 16th)
Apply and turn in a hard copy of receipt verification, along with your writing prompt responses. For more info: https://flinn.org/flinn-scholars/the-scholarship/apply/

Show Me the Money (Likely a 3rd or 4th Quarter option)
Complete the FAFSA. Turn in a hard copy of your verification email. Extra credit if you turn in verification of your parent’s part too. https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa

The NEXT BIG THING
Map out a degree program for the post-secondary field of study you’re considering. Plot out required courses and elective classes that appeal. Tack on graduate program requirements if that’s part of your trajectory.

TED Talk Playlist
Choose one of our class themes – Passion, Vocation, Mission, or Profession – and find 5 TED Talks that dive into the subject and provide “insight worth watching”. Submit a brief write-up about each – include citation info and a description of each talk. If you find one that your peers might appreciate, extra credit if you introduce and present it in class.

Future Perfect Resume (Probably best as a 4th Quarter option)
Compose a resume that reflects the optimal version of who you hope to be and what you want to have accomplished 20 years from now. The document should reflect how your passions, vocations, missions, and professions have been put into action and fully realized. Elegant format, 2 pages max.