

Sound School SAE/Capstone ISSP Series¹
FFA – Non Experimental and Experimental Research
Agriculture Science – Aquaculture Science – Aquaculture Technology
Environmental History – Habitat Stability and Food Security
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One of the fastest growing environmental fields is habitat stability and food security. Closely related are the topics of climate change, world food supplies and if current food production is sustainable on a regional basis. Sea level rise also is under review for transitioning habitats along our coast changing expectations of seafood production with a now worldwide concern of ocean water acidification.

The series is to provide ideas, suggestions for a junior/senior Capstone project.* Agriculture education has long required a senior portfolio project and research topics related to our curricular scope and sequence that now fall under the category FFA experimental research. For agriculture education this area represents the fastest growing work experience placement types in the component called Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE).

A Capstone project requires a tremendous effort and juniors may want to consider an ISSP project for credit to explore proposal or topic areas in their Junior year expanding to a Capstone – SAE in their senior year. Julie Reinshagen is our ISSP Coordinator here at Sound School. Her office is in the 2nd Floor, Thomas Building. She is here on Thursdays. Questions about SAE, Trish Russell is our Career Services Coordinator and handles ASTE portfolios. Her office is in the Foote Building, 7:30 to 11:30 Tuesday – Thursday.

There are two major kinds of research SAE programs, experimental and non-experimental. Taylor Samuels is making these reports available on our website publications page (<http://www.soundschool.com/Publications.html>) and they can be accessed in that section. Taylor Samuels is here on campus Monday through Thursday 9:30 to 2:30.

¹ The Capstone Experience, CT State Department of Education

Experimental FFA SAE – An intensive activity where the student plans and conducts a major agricultural experiment using the scientific process. The purpose of the experiment is to provide students “hands-on” experience in verifying, learning or demonstrating scientific principles in agriculture, discovering new knowledge and using the scientific process. In an experimental SAE, there is a hypothesis, a control group, and variables are manipulated.

- Non-Experimental FFA-SAE (analytical) – Students choose an agricultural problem that is not amenable to experimentation and design a plan to investigate and analyze the problem. The student will gather and evaluate data from a variety of sources and then produce some type of finished product. The product could be a marketing display or marketing plan for an agricultural commodity, a series of newspaper articles, a land use plan for a farm, a detailed landscape design for a community facility, an advertising campaign for an agribusiness, and so forth. An analytical SAE is flexible enough so that it could be used in any type of agricultural class, provides valuable experience and contributes to the development of critical thinking skills deemed so important in education today.

ISSP – The ISSP is one of Connecticut’s oldest and most established high school programs for talented and gifted students, having been in continuous existence since 1967. It is a program not only for gifted, but potentially gifted high school students as well. It may include a seminar, an independent study project, a college course, a special Yale-affiliated program or working with a mentor.

Philosophy and Goals –

ISSP’s philosophy and goals are similar to those of the New Haven School District in that it respond to the expectations of students and their parents through a commitment to help ISSP student grow in self-awareness, in academic preparation, and in practical experience.

These papers are not the proposals but often have Capstone questions – and you (the student) have an investigative role. This series is provide some background materials upon which to explore a possible topic. The federal/state description of the ASTE category for SAE FFA research is found in the footnote.

Research FFA SAE- As agriculture (aquaculture) has become more scientific, there is a need to conduct research to discover new knowledge.

Remember to contact your ASTE teacher or Capstone Advisor for guidance on structure, format and work products expected from you as you begin a Capstone project.

ISSP can occur in your Junior year for credit and convert into a Capstone project for Senior year.