



SUMMER INDEPENDENT PROJECTS

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AGENDA

- Why take on an independent project?
- How to choose a project
- Planning your project
- Resources
- Collaboration Possibilities
- Portfolios & Showcasing Your Work
- Ideas for Projects
 - Creative Fields
 - Tech & Data
 - Science & Research
 - Business, Government, etc.
- Questions?

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONSIDERATIONS

Office of International Student Affairs "OISA"

OISA GrinnellShare:

<https://grinco.sharepoint.com/sites/OfficeOfInternationalStudentAffairs>

Review OISA resources on GrinnellShare and/or meet with OISA staff PRIOR to accepting an internship, volunteer, or other position



WHY TAKE ON AN INDEPENDENT PROJECT?



- Build a skill you'll need for future opportunities
- Showcase a skill, interest, etc. on your resume
- No pressure to compete!
- In your control - tailored to your specific goals
- Demonstrate *output* - especially for portfolio development
- Work around your schedule (ideal for traveling, part-time jobs, family commitments, etc.)

HOW TO CHOOSE A PROJECT

- Interests and skills
- Future goals
- Time commitment
- Tools and resources available
- Partnership (more on this coming!)
- Brainstorm ideas with your faculty or CLS adviser
- Gather ideas from job descriptions, LinkedIn profiles





PLANNING

1. Identify your project
2. Set a manageable goal
3. Map out milestones/break it down into smaller steps
4. Determine what supplies/resources you need
5. Consider a daily/weekly structure
6. Seek out feedback
7. Revise
8. Showcase



RESOURCES

LEARNING PLATFORMS

- [LinkedIn Learning](#)
- [Coursera](#)
- [CLS Developing Skills](#)
- Industry specific resources (see CLS adviser)

WEBSITE DESIGN

- [Sites@Grinnell](#)

CAMPUS GRANTS

- [CLS Professional Development Grant](#)
 - (Coming soon – new grant for 1st & 2nd year students in fall 2026!)
- [Center for the Humanities Grant](#)
- [Wilson Center Catalyst](#)



COLLABORATION POSSIBILITIES

WITH WHO?

- A peer (not necessarily your best friend!)
- Faculty
- Community Partner
- CLS Advisors can help you brainstorm

BENEFITS

- Accountability Partner
- Collaboration, communication, and negotiation as soft skills
- Learn from someone with a complimentary skillset (a coder and an artist, for example)

SHOWCASING YOUR WORK

WEBSITE

- WIX (has free options)
- [Sites@Grinnell](#) (free through graduation)
 - Attend DLAC/CLS Website Workshops as they come up for guided website development

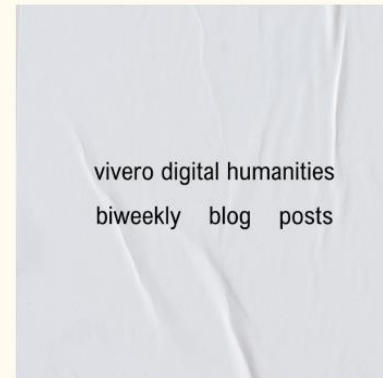
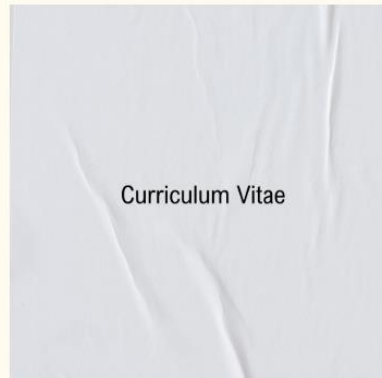
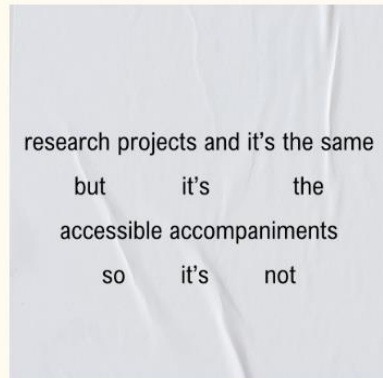
SHARE OUT

- **Host an exhibition/showcase of your work**
- **Lead a workshop to teach others what you learned**
- **Give a talk about your work**
- **Post about your project on LinkedIn**

SHOWCASING YOUR WORK



Emma's Portfolio



Emma
Kumano-
Maloney
Class of 2025
Sites@Grinnell
Portfolio



OTHER IDEAS

- Github
- MAPs website, "[Venues for Presenting Work](#)"
- [Council on Undergraduate Research](#), "Undergraduate Research Journal Listing"
- [Denison Creative Writing Guide](#), "Literary Journals That Publish Undergraduate Writing"



IDEAS FOR PROJECTS



CREATIVE FIELDS

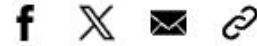
- Write an article or short story & apply to be published (develops writing samples)
- Start a podcast, even if it is a limited episode scope
- Create a social media campaign
- Produce a short film
- Record a song
- Create a video game (this also in tech & data!)
- Edit a sample reel of your work
- Create artwork, a series, experiment

Woman sets up hilarious scenes in garden to make it look like squirrels are hard at work

The adorable snaps show the squirrels in a range of unusual situations



Claire Reid



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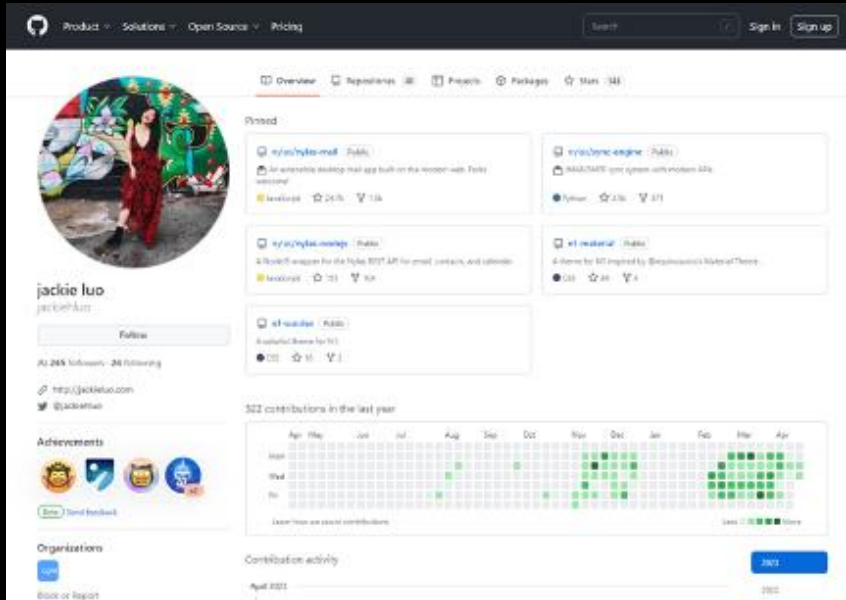
Photo credit for most photos:

Young Chu

<https://www.ladbible.com/community/woman-sets-up-hilarious-squirrel-scenes-928004-20230306>

TECH & DATA

- Showcase skills in writing code, reading code, and collaborating
- Start with a project from class that you enjoyed and expand/adapt it
- Lots of ideas for projects online (developing apps, websites, games, etc.)
- Create a website
- Collect projects on GitHub and include profile in your contact info on your resume





SCIENCE & RESEARCH

- Put together an annotated bibliography or literature review
 - "A comprehensive review of previous research on a topic that describes, summarizes and evaluates the previous research"
- Collaborate with students, faculty or researchers
- Use available data set to develop a research idea
- Writing & science communication – create an infographic or article to bring a subject to a broader audience
- Research experts in your field and their backgrounds. Where/who is the work happening you're interested in?

BUSINESS + GOVERNMENT + EDUCATION

- Build Skills/Complete Modules
 - **LinkedIn Learning | Forage**
- Prepare for a case competition
 - <https://career.grinnell.edu/resources/business-finance-competitions/>
- Develop a business plan/product idea (you can file for a patent)
- Write an article, blog, journalism project on a current event/issue you are passionate about to submit for publication
- Use a data set to develop a research topic
 - [FiveThirtyEight has data sets related to a lot of topics](#)
 - Example: **Political language analysis of presidential speeches**
- Develop a lesson plan or tutoring curriculum



IDEAS?





QUESTIONS?

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Make an appointment on
Handshake

CLS Website

<https://career.grinnell.edu/>