

Documentary Project AP U.S. History

TASK

Working in groups of 2, 3, or by yourself, you are required to research a historical topic within United States history and create a 6-8 minute documentary film. If you are working in a group of 3 your documentary must be at least 10 minutes long. No films over 15 minutes please! You must clear both your topic and your groups with me prior beginning. You don't want to do all that work and not be given credit.

REQUIREMENTS

- You may use any software available to you to create your movie – final product must be placed on a viewable platform (strongly suggest even loading it up on YouTube); such as *.avi or *.mov
- All movies must be on an historical site / event that pertains to United States History.
- All topics must address a thesis.
- Your movie must address the following areas that pertain to your topic
 - You must demonstrate detailed knowledge of your topic. Your grade will be determined on how many pertinent and relevant facts you include in your documentary. If your topic overview is too basic, your grade will suffer.
 - You must tell the story in a way that is both engaging and easy to follow. There is a saying that "History is a story well told". Make sure that your topics story is clear to your audience.
 - What message is your documentary trying to convey to your audience? All documentaries want their viewers to walk away with something. Your film must be able to convey your message very clearly.
- Your movie must be 6 to 8 minutes long in order to receive full credit. (Group of 3 = 10 minutes)
- Your movie must include a narration of at least 2-3 minutes (Group of 3 = 4-5 minutes)
- Your movie must include an interview of some kind that is at least 30 seconds long. This can be of actual resources (like a family member or friend) or an "acting" source (Pretend to be a famous historian, or figure in history, etc...)
- Your movie must include relevant pictures, video clips, music, graphs, text, picture effects, transitions, etc, to make it look as professional as possible.
- Your movie must include a "Credits" page that acknowledges the people that helped make your movie
- You must include a Works Cited credits page using MLA format, with a minimum of 5 sources (1 non-internet). This can be turned in as a hardcopy or you may include it at the end of your movie.

RESEARCH

If you need help deciding on a targeted theme, please feel free to contact me. It is HIGHLY recommended that you do some **background research** prior to selecting your topic. Know that you have the resources to complete the project. You are required to do research on your topic! You need to make sure you have completed this research prior to beginning making your movie so that your movie is reflective of that actual research.

GRADING / DUE DATES

This project is worth **TWO** Period Exam grades (an awesome way to start off the year!!!). Your grade will be based on a combined student / teacher evaluation. The project must be completed by the **first day of class on the first full week of school** (not the two days we first return). The rubric for your final project is below..make sure you read over it **CAREFULLY**.

NOTE: No late projects will be accepted!

Summer Project Grading Rubric

AP U.S. History

100 - 94	93 - 85	84 - 73	72 - 65
<p>All Required Technical Elements included in the film</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 minutes long (10 min 3 people) - Narration of 4 minutes - Interview of 1 minute - Relevant pictures, video clips, and music - Smooth transition effects throughout movie - Innovative Opening Title & Credits Pages <p>All content requirements included in the film</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Movie demonstrates a detailed and accurate knowledge of pertinent facts pertaining to the topic. - "A story well told" = Film engages audience and gives a clear and defined synthesis of the topic - Message of documentary is both powerful and thought provoking. Message is clearly evident to the audience. <p>Works Cited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes 5+ sources - Variety of sources used to research topics. - More than 2+ sources are non-internet - Works Cited is in correct MLA format and included within the film <p>Overall Effort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The film is both professional informative about the topic - The film is very polished with no technical or content errors - Group effort is clearly evident 	<p>Most Required Technical Elements included in the film</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6-8 minutes long (9 minutes 3 people) - Narration of 3 minutes - Interview of 30 seconds to 1 minute - Mostly Relevant pictures, video clips, and music - Transition effects are included throughout movie - Opening Title & Credits Pages included <p>Most content requirements included in the film</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Movie demonstrates accurate knowledge of pertinent facts pertaining to the topic. - "A story well told" = Film gives a clear summary of the topic - Message of documentary is somewhat thought provoking. - Message is clear to the audience. <p>Works Cited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes 5 sources - Some Variety of sources used to research topics. - More than 1+ sources are non-internet - Works Cited is in correct MLA format and included within the film <p>Overall Effort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The film is informative about the topic - The film is polished with few technical or content errors - The film looks like the product of 3 weeks of work - Group effort is evident 	<p>Some Required Technical Elements included in the film</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4-6 minutes long (7 minutes 3 people) - Narration of 2 minutes - Interview of 30 seconds - Some Relevant pictures, video clips, and music - Transition effects are seen in some parts of the movie - Opening Title & Credits Pages included <p>Some content requirements included in the film</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Movie demonstrates a somewhat accurate knowledge of pertinent facts pertaining to the topic, but important information is missing - "A story told" = Film gives a decent summary of the topic - Message of documentary is clear but simplistic. - Message is somewhat evident to the audience. <p>Works Cited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes 4+ sources - Variety of sources is limited. - 1 source is non-internet - Works Cited is in correct MLA format with some errors, and is included in the film <p>Overall Effort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The film is somewhat informative about the topic - The film is very somewhat polished but has several technical or content errors - Group effort is somewhat evident 	<p>Few Required Technical Elements included in the film</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less than 4 minutes long (less than 5 minutes 3 people) - Narration is missing or is less than 1 minute - Interview is missing or is less than 30 seconds long - Very few relevant pictures, video clips, and music - No transition effects are seen in the movie - Opening Title & Credits pages are missing <p>Few content requirements included in the film</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Movie demonstrates few cases of accurate knowledge of pertinent facts pertaining to the topic. / Facts too basic in nature - "A story?" = Film does not summarize the topic in an understandable format - Message of documentary is unclear or missing entirely. - Message is not evident to the audience or missing entirely <p>Works Cited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes 3 or less sources - No variety in sources used - No sources are non-internet - Works Cited is not in correct MLA format, or has numerous errors. - No Works Cited included in the film <p>Overall Effort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The film is sloppy, unorganized, or unrelated to topic - Film looks like a rough draft with excessive no technical or content errors - Little to no group effort