*U.S. History (CP: Gr. 11) New West Charter Instructor: Ms. Hynes*

**Culminating Project (CP)**

**Ancestry Analysis Essay**

Introduction:

In this essay, you will once again practice focused, expository writing. Your goal for this project is to ***place yourself and your family within one or more of the contexts and/or themes of American history.*** You will use at least THREE PRIMARY SOURCES and at least TWO SECONDARY SOURCES for your research. As with any expository essay, remember that your thesis should be the FRAMEWORK or PERSPECTIVE through which you will present yours and your family’s place in American history as you see it. It is not necessarily designed to be heavily persuasive. ***Please submit your thesis to the teacher for approval before you move forward with your research!***

Example:

Context(s) of American History:

1. *The high honor and glorification of military service in America*
2. *The massive anti-war movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s*

Thesis: *“My family, like many American families, has a long and proud military tradition; at least one member of my family in each generation has fought in every American conflict since the Spanish-American war. This tradition was interrupted by my father who, as a draft dodger and an anti-war activist during the early 1970s, caused a great deal of consternation within my family.”*

Your essay should meet the following criteria:

* 500 – 600 words (approximately 2 pages)
* CLEAR, focused thesis
* The essay is written using formal, academic language
* The essay is informed by at least two RELIABLE, academic, secondary research sources
* The essay makes use of at least THREE PRIMARY SOURCES (images, artifacts, interviews, letters, diaries)
* The essay properly cites information used from research sources in the body of the text using brackets (for APA), or footnotes (for MLA or Chicago Style).
* The essay includes a properly-formatted “bibliography” or “works cited” page.

Due Date: Friday May 12

Point Value: 40 points

Grading Rubric: Biographical Essay

Category/Descriptor Points

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| Knowledge/Understanding:  The essay reflects a thorough understanding of the context and themes of American history in which you placed yourself and your family. The text is written in an expository style and features a CLEAR, and well-supported thesis. | 10 7.5 5 1 |
| Research/Inquiry:  The essay is informed by at least two reliable, academic, secondary sources and at least three primary sources which are properly cited within the body of the text, and a properly-formatted “bibliography” or “works cited” page is included. | 10 7.5 5 1 |
| Communication:  The essay is very informative, with enriching details which engage the reader. The overall structure and individual paragraphs are well-organized for clarity and a smooth flow of ideas. Formal academic language is used throughout and there are virtually no grammar, spelling, sentence structure or punctuation issues. | 10 7.5 5 1 |
| Execution:  The essay is complete, thoughtfully written, well-edited, meets ALL assignment criteria, and shows evidence of planning and effort. | 10 7.5 5 1 |

Total: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/40