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

**Extra-Credit Assignment: “Truth is Stranger Than Fiction”**

**Teacher’s Message:** Greetings everyone! I hope that you will all take advantage of this opportunity to earn some extra credit points for this mini-research assignment. Have you ever heard of or read about an event that just sounded too crazy to be true, but was nonetheless perfectly accurate? Your challenge is to use at least TWO *reliable research sources* to complete a report on any event related to U.S. history which you find interesting, and that you consider to be “stranger than fiction”.

**Criteria:** In your report, you should provide a detailed description of the event itself, including causes, consequences or reactions to the event. Please also include an analysis of its significance in U.S. history.

**Format:** In addition to choosing your own topic, you may present this report in a format of your choice. However, there must be some element of writing or oral presentation which addresses the description and analysis of your chosen event. Some formats you might like to use could include:

* Short essay
* Powerpoint presentation
* Short video (narrated or subtitled)
* Journalistic photo essay
* Comic Strip

**Suggestions for Research:**

* Digital newspaper archives
* Google Books
* JSTOR (Academic Article Database)
* RefSeek (Academic Search Engine)
* [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)
* [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)
* [www.historyplace.com](http://www.historyplace.com)
* [www.authentichistory.com](http://www.authentichistory.com)
* [www.discovery.com](http://www.discovery.com)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_

**Topic and Research Proposal**

My topic will be: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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My sources include: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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The format(s) I’ve considered include: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please submit this proposal to your teacher for approval by Thursday November 17.*

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_

“Truth is Stranger Than Fiction” – Grading Rubric

Skills 5 4 3 2 1

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Knowledge and Understanding | A clear and detailed understanding of the event, its causes and consequences is presented | A generally clear and somewhat detailed understanding of the event, its causes and consequences is presented | Knowledge and understanding of the event is presented, but with little context and few or no details | The event is presented mechanically without consideration for context or details | The event is presented vaguely with no context or details |
| Use of Research Sources | Reliable research sources are used skillfully.  --No significant factual errors or misrepresentation of sources  --Recognizes and comments on author’s point of view where and if applicable | Reliable research sources are used.  --May contain a few factual errors or misrepresentation of sources  --Recognizes author’s point of view where and if applicable | Only one reliable research source is used or referred to  --Contains factual errors and misrepresentation of source  --Does not recognize author’s point of view | Uses little information from research sources  --Merely quotes or briefly cites sources  --Does not recognize author’s point of view | No use of sources |
| Analysis | The event, its causes and its consequences are analyzed thoroughly and thoughtfully for their significance in U.S. history | The event, its causes and its consequences are analyzed sufficiently for their significance in U.S. history | Analysis is attempted with some success, but the event’s significance in U.S. history is somewhat unclear | Analysis, although attempted is not accurate, or is too vague to be understood | Fails to provide an analysis of the event’s significance in U.S. history |
| Organization and Clarity | The chosen format shows an effort at creativity, and is used skillfully to clearly communicate both the details of the event and the analysis | The chosen format is organized to clearly communicate the details of the event and the analysis | The chosen format communicates the event, details and analysis with some clarity | The format used communicates the event mechanically or vaguely  The impression is received that another choice in format might have been better | The format used shows little or no attempt at organization or clarity |

Final Grade: \_\_\_\_\_/20 points

*\*Please submit this rubric to your teacher at the same time you submit your assignment. The final due date is Friday December 2.*