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

**Ancestry Mini-Project**

The purpose of this project is to give you experience writing in an expository style and working with primary sources, two skills you will need for upcoming major assignments in Honors U.S. History.

Expository writing is a style which “exposes”. In other words, this type of writing shows, demonstrates or teaches the reader something about a person, event or topic. Expository writing, while not persuasive, still requires the writer to formulate a CLEAR THESIS. This thesis should be the focal point for your project, however it is not as highly emphasized as it would be in persuasive or argumentative 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 both expository text and images for this project.

Your project should meet the following criteria:

-Contain 3 paragraphs of expository text, including a CLEAR THESIS

-Use at least 1 secondary source and at least 2 primary sources (could be text, images or artifacts)

-All research should be properly cited within the body of the text and a properly-formatted bibliography should be included (you may use APA, MLA or Chicago Style, whichever you prefer, just make sure you stay consistent).

Terms:

Primary Source: an object, artifact, media sample or text which was produced, created or formed during the time period being studied (photos, news articles, media, letters, diaries, clothing, jewelry, first-person accounts or interviews, etc.)

Secondary Source: a written account of history by a writer who did not experience the time period being studied, but may have used primary sources or other secondary sources to inform the account (academic articles, textbooks, biographies, etc.)

**Ancestry Mini-Project:**

**Rubric**

Category/Descriptor Points

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| --- | --- |
| Knowledge/Understanding:  The completed project demonstrates a thorough understanding of the context and themes of American history in which you placed yourself and your family. | 2.5 2 1.5 1 |
| Research/Inquiry:  The completed project is informed by at least ONE reliable academic secondary source which is properly cited within the text, and bibliographic entries are included. In addition, at least TWO primary sources are used, are properly cited in the text, and included in the bibliography. | 2.5 2 1.5 1 |
| Communication:  The completed project is very informative, with enriching details and engages the reader in its examination of your family’s place in American history. The text is written in an expository style with a CLEAR and well-supported thesis and there are virtually no grammar, spelling, sentence structure or punctuation issues. | 2.5 2 1.5 1 |
| Execution:  The completed project addresses ALL aspects of the assignment, is thoughtfully rendered and shows evidence of planning, effort and creativity. | 2.5 2 1.5 1 |

Total: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10