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

**Sample Assignment:**

**Essay Outline & Annotated Bibliography**

**Essay Outline:** Your essay outline should include your BASIC thesis statement and all of the supporting points you will use to prove that thesis

**Thesis:** While the American public had many reasons to love and admire George Washington, his decision to step down after only two terms is undoubtedly the most influential factor which earned Washington the title of “Father of the Nation”.

**First Body Paragraph:** The “two-term limit” is the convention set by Washington that ALMOST ALL subsequent presidents followed, demonstrating both admiration for Washington himself, and particular admiration for the establishment of the two-term presidency.

**Second Body Paragraph:** The two-term limit was such an important and highly regarded principle that it eventually became viewed as crucial enough to be enshrined in our Constitution.

**Third Body Paragraph:** Discussion of reasons why George Washington was particularly loved (not taking a salary during the Revolution or as President, etc) but with strong emphasis on serving two terms as the truest expression of the highest American values which go all the way back to the Declaration of Independence – avoiding tyranny and dictatorship.

**Annotated Bibliography:** Your annotated bibliography should tell the reader **THREE** things about each of the sources you used.

1. The complete publication information for each source
2. A brief summary of the source (a few sentences)
3. How useful the source is in terms of constructing your argument

Finally, you should include a “Notes” section at the end of your annotated bibliography. This section gives information about the progress of your essay so far, and what further research or development is needed before you begin writing your first draft.

**Sample Annotation:**

1) Grizzard, Frank E. *George Washington: A Biographical Companion.* Published by ABC-Clio Incorporated. 2002. Pp. 260 – 301.

2) This source is a broad encyclopedia which examines diverse aspects of Washington’s life, historical significance and political achievements through the eyes of those who knew him, as well as through the eyes of various historians.

3) Only one section of this source is helpful to my argument (pp. 260 – 301). This section provides support for the points made in body paragraphs 1 and 2 by referring directly to the fact that the majority of presidents followed Washington’s example (p. 274) and the circumstances under which the two-term rule became part of the American Constitution (pp. 298 – 301).

**NOTES:** Personal reflection on the progress of your essay, and what further research or development of ideas needs to be done before you sit down to write your first draft.