8th Grade Multi-Genre Research Project

***BE CREATIVE!!***

**Requirements**

**Cover Page/Title Page**

The cover page should include the title of your project, your name, and some types of visual representation of the overarching theme of your project.

**Introduction**

The preface should be a general introduction to your person. The introduction should answer the following questions:

Why did you choose this topic?

What did you already know about the topic?

What do you hope to learn about the topic?

Why is the topic important to culture?

**Informative Essay**

Compose an informative essay about the persons life, what happened and the implications of their life to culture. You must use MLA formatting rules for writing a paper.

**FOUR ENTRIES**

This is the BIGGEST part of the project, basically you will choose four different genres that you feel will help communicate who this person was. Each genre will be a different type of writing, and will be APPROPRIATE to your topic. For each entry you will provide two to three sentences ON THE SAME PAGE explaining why the genre is appropriate to the topic.

**INFORMATIVE SPEECH**

Using the information that was found during the research process, students will put together a 5 minute informative speech. The speech will written onto index cards, and students are urged to use a visual aide during the performance. The speech should be well rehearsed and minimal use of the note cards is encouraged.

**CONCLUSION**

The conclusion should be a brief summary of how all of the pieces work together to contribute to the whole work.

**WORKS CITED PAGE**

NO WIKIPEDIA ALLOWED. Students need to use at least 3 separate sources for their topic. One source should be a book. The more information you collect the easier the project will be.

**KEEP TRACK of DUE DATES and POINTS!!!**

Introduction (20 pts) is due – January 21, 2014

Informative Essay (50 pts) is due – January 31, 2014

Genre 1 (20 pts) – February 7, 2014

Genre 2 (20 pts) – February 14, 2014

Genre 3 (20 PTS) – February 21, 2014

Genre 4 (20 pts) – February 28, 2014

Speech (20 pts) – March 3 & 4, 2014

All pieces together with cover page, conclusion and works cited page (30 pts) March 5, 2014

**200 HUNDRED TOTAL POINTS**!

Multi Genre Research Project

*THEME QUESTION: How did this person change society?*

**Define** the Multi Genre Research Project

Multi: many, more than one

Genre: a category or type of literature based on its style, form and content

Research: inquiry or investigating a subject

Project: long term educational assignment necessitating personal initiative, undertaken by an individual student.

**STEP 1:** during this unit you will be asked to select a person from the 1920’s-1970’s **from the list provided.**

**STEP 2:** you will research this person’s life. You will be reqired to use internet and book sources. You will research the person and the implications of the persons life on culture/society.

**STEP 3**: using your research you will assemble several pieces of writing using various genres, an informational essay and give a in class speech on your person

The purpose of this assignment is to learn more about a person’s life, providing you with an opportunity to move outside the limits of academic writing and is in effect a creative writing assignment.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ACTORS**  Bob Hope  Doris Day  Shirley Temple  Charlie Chaplin  Fred Astaire  **ARTISTS**  Salvadore Dali  Pablo Picasso  Jackson Pollock | **Authors**  Langston Hughes  George Orwell  W.E.B. Dubois  Hemingway  **Musicians**  Ray Charles  Duke Ellington  Billy Holliday  Cab Calloway | **Athletes**  Jesse Owens  Billy Jean King  Roberto Clemente  Lou Gehrig  **Other…**  Coco Chanel  Mother Theresa  Cesar Chavez  Josef Stalin |

**SUBMIT YOUR SELECTION TO Ms. Schuler by JANUARY 10th!** A person may only be used once! So get your selection in *SOON*!

**Multi-Genre Research Project Research Guide: PERSON**

Below is a suggested list of information to gather regarding your chosen person. You are not limited to this list, but most of the information should be completed by the end of next class. Use notebook paper to gather information. Keep track of sources on the source information sheets for your Works Cited page. **Remember, three sources: one must be print!**

Full Name:

Original Name (did he/she change it):

Birth Date/Death Date/Cause of Death

Childhood (parents, any abuse, problems, good childhood?):

Where was he/she born? Where did he/she grow up? Information about location. Could that have affected him/her?

Interests as child, adult, etc.

Famous for…

Immediate success or did it take a while?

Movies/Music/Actual products he/she produced/made?

Adult life: Love life, problems in life, scandals, criminal history, etc.

Friends/Associates/Who did he/she “run” with? Good people or bad people?

Time period he/she was famous: what were some of the cultural norms, values, issues of that time period? How did his/her values stack up?

Begin thinking: what genres would work with my person? Why? *(use chart on back to brainstorm)*

**Basically, get as much information as possible so that you can transform it into genres!**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Possible Genre** | **Why it’s appropriate for my event** | **What kinds of details will I include/write for this genre?** |
| **1.** |  |  |
| **2.** |  |  |
| **Informative Speech** |  |  |

**Genres 1**

Newspaper Front Page

Create a front page of a newspaper during the time period of your person. For example, if my topic was the Holocaust, I might write an article about the liberation of Auschwitz with details and eyewitness accounts of the survivors and include smaller stories about other things going on during the time period.

Advice Column

For this one, pretend to be an advice columnist like “Dear Abby” and write letters asking for advice and include responses. For Vietnam, I might have a person write asking for advice about a brother being in the war when I disapprove of it. Then, as the advice columnist, I would give the person advice about how to support the brother without supporting the war itself.

Letter

The letters can be written to a public official (like the President), an imaginary person (like a friend), or an expert (like a scientist). For Vietnam, I might write a letter to President Johnson explaining why the war was unjustified. Write at least three communications relating to your person/event (remember, there wasn’t texting and emailing during these decades!).

Newsletter

A newsletter is a more informal type of newspaper, often produced by a specific group, like the Principal’s Newsletter for our school. Your newsletter should look like a newsletter with columns and illustrations. Publisher is an easy way to create this. For the Civil Rights movement, I might create a newsletter for a college chapter of the NAACP. I might have articles about upcoming rallies, major events, and plans for the future of the group.

PowerPoint

Similar to the informative essay or biography, you can create a PowerPoint providing information about your topic. You should have a title slide, contents slide, and several additional slides. You should print yours and provide me with an electronic copy so I can view your animation or media (if you use them). Keep in mind that a PowerPoint presentation should be informative, but easy to follow and not overpowering in terms of the text on each slide.

Persuasive Speech

Compose a speech that persuades an audience to agree with a claim. Write a speech outline or full text addressing an audience. For example, pretend that you are a candidate for election during the time period of your topic or event. If my topic was Richard Nixon, I might write a speech by a member of Nixon’s party explaining to the American people what really happened and why they should continue to support the party.

**Genres 2**

Original Poetry

Your poem(s) should be inspired by your research. It does not have to rhyme but should include figurative language and imagery. For example, for the Holocaust, I might write a poem describing the concentration camps.

Short Story

Your story should be inspired by your research. It should include those literary elements we have been focusing on in class. For example, for Vietnam, I might write a story about a soldier coming back from the war.

Children’s Book

Your children’s book should be inspired by your research and should include appropriate non-print, as well as those literary elements we have been focusing on in class. For example, for the Civil Rights movement, I might write a story about going to the “I Have a Dream” speech from the perspective of a child.

Facebook Page

Who would be friends with your person? What comments would he make, who would write on his wall, what personal information would be listed? I have a “Facebook template” page for you to use; you plug in all the appropriate information.

Advertisement or Brochure

Create an advertisement or brochure related to your topic. This could be a magazine ad, a video commercial, or a brochure. If I were studying Muhammad Ali, I might create a poster that advertises the Rumble in the Jungle and how to obtain tickets to the fight. For the women’s suffrage movement, I could create a brochure explaining how to lobby senators for votes.

Comic Strip

Create a six-panel comic strip about the most significant part of your event/an important event in your person’s life. Drawings must be original and text should be limited to speech bubbles and small captions.

**Genre 3**

Graphic Short Story

Create a graphic short story inspired by your topic. This could be a story-based comic book, a superhero story, or a series of funny comic strips or political cartoons. All artwork should be original. For example, if Albert Einstein were a superhero, who would be the evil villain? Would he have a sidekick?

Photostory

Find several pictures of your topic. Narrate the “story” of your person or event through the pictures you found. Photos should be linked together, flowing from one to another, and should demonstrate key insights into the topic.

Editorial

While similar to the newspaper article, this should be an opinion piece, and it should be an editorial that could have appeared in a newspaper or magazine of the time period. Editorials tend to discuss modern controversial issues, like participation in a war or a new government policy. With the Holocaust, I might write an article debunking the belief of some that it was all a hoax. With Vietnam, an article might either attack the draft or attack the protestors’ beliefs. Write two editorials that deal with “opposites” regarding your topic.

Scene from a Play

Write a scene from a play or a one-act play inspired by your event or person. For example, for Nixon, I might write a one-act play in which Nixon is informed about the evidence against him and in which he decides to resign.

Documentary

If you like to create videos, create a video clip that provides the information you might have presented in an essay. You might include interviews, pictures, video clips, etc. If your documentary were about the Great Depression, you might include clips of dust storms, interviews with historians (or at least history teachers), and first hand accounts from people who lived through the time period.

Diary

Pretend you are the person or are involved in the event. Create a diary with multiple entries. Use specific details from your research. For example, if I were doing the Vietnam War, I might write a diary as a soldier and describe the day-to-day activities in Vietnam and the battles.

Interview

For an interview, you have two options. One is that you can pretend to be a reporter and interview someone directly involved in the event. For example, with the Holocaust, you could pretend to interview a Holocaust survivor. The other option is to actually interview someone who was affected. For example, for the JFK assassination, you could interview people who were alive at the time and how it affected them.

Soundtrack

Pick eight songs that you feel represent your person and write a 2-3 sentence explanation on how each song relates to the person/event. Print out the lyrics to each song and connect at least two stanzas to specific details regarding the person/event (You may write your notes directly on the song lyrics you’ve printed).