American History through your Ancestor's Eyes: 1870-1919



Winter Semester Presentation Guidelines

- **Pick an American ancestor who lived during the time period of 1870-1919 and tell their life through the lens of history.**

- **Pick a specific aspect of their life that highlights a facet of American history during the 1870-1919 timeframe.** Tell their life in the context of this part of history. History can include so many different aspects from inventions, careers, events, historical movements, wars, natural disasters, etc. Don't limit yourself. For example if your ancestor was a farmer in Iowa in 1900 the lens you tell his story through could be farming practices of his time, if your ancestor was a women it could be the story of women's suffrage and how that affected your ancestor, or if your ancestor fought in WWI it could be his experience as a soldier.

- **The purpose of this project is three-fold:**
    - To help you practice the skills of being a historian by deep diving into historical research from primary, secondary, and tertiary sources about your ancestor and historical circumstances in their life. This is a great opportunity to search for family records and artifacts to learn more about the people who came before you. Winterum and the holidays are a great time to start this research. Ask questions of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins at family gatherings. Get the name and contact info for the family historian in your family and give them a call! Maybe your ancestor is buried in a cemetery nearby or a relative has a journal of theirs. Find these things out and dig deep as part of your research.
    - To help you feel more connected to history by making it personal. This ancestor lives on in you- your very DNA. History lives on in you!
    - To help you practice presenting (in creative and engaging ways) what you have learned through all your research. Help your teachers and class feel

excited about seeing history through your ancestors' eyes. The more creative and engaging- the better!

- **When you sign up for the presentation make sure no one else is signing up for the historical topic you are covering. Presentation signup sheet link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1B0H3JWh6yu5yvY94PQoSL4Q4JLaYjkEkels-YxJZcW8/edit**

- **All the guidelines from our Fall Presentation apply to this presentation:**
    - **Research Your Ancestor's Life and the Historical Topic you are highlighting**
        - Fill out a family tree chart up to four generations (2nd great grandparents). This should get you far enough back to the time period we are covering.
        - Conduct thorough research to gather historical facts, details, and anecdotes about your ancestor and the historical topic you are sharing about.
        - Utilize reputable sources, such as books, academic articles, and historical archives, to ensure the accuracy of your information.
        - Utilize family members and family history resources to learn about your ancestor's life.
        - Helpful Genealogy Tools include:
            - Ancestry.com
            - Familysearch.com
            - Census Records, Marriage Records, Death Records, Ship Transports, etc
            - Family Interviews
            - Journals
            - Letters
            - Pictures
            - Videos
            - Artifacts
            - Google Maps
            - Wikipedia
    - **Create an Engaging Presentation**
        - Craft a compelling narrative of your ancestor's life and the history you are telling through their life. Tell a story that captivates your audience.

        - Use PowerPoint or any other visual aids to enhance your presentation's content.
        - Incorporate images, maps, family photos, and other visuals to illustrate key points.
        - Consider using primary sources such as letters, diaries, artifacts or photographs to add authenticity to your presentation.
    - **Immersive Experience**
        - To make your presentation truly immersive, think outside the box:
            - Consider serving food that your ancestors ate.
            - Dress in costumes that reflect clothes your ancestor wore.
            - Include music or sound effects that were relevant to your ancestor and their life.
    - **Practice and Timing**
        - Rehearse your presentation to ensure it fits within the 10-15-minute time limit. Give your presentation to your parents before your date so they can give you any helpful tips.
        - Practice speaking clearly and confidently to engage your audience effectively.

My Family Tree



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