

HONORS WORLD HISTORY

Mr. Schwartz

FIRST SEMESTER PROJECT CIVILIZATIONS ESSAY & VIDEO

This past semester we have been studying the emergence of civilizations in the ancient Middle East, the Mediterranean basin, the Indian subcontinent, China, the medieval Middle East, and Eastern and Western Europe. We have truly been around the world... We have examined how these civilizations transformed the course of human history through technological innovation and cultural development (remember our “buckets”?!)

The Assignment

In the following project, you will be writing a formal research essay about a historical figure we have studied this past semester. The individual you select undoubtedly influenced the course of events in their respective society; this means that they can be **political leaders, religious leaders, philosophers**, or even extraordinary cultural figures like **artists** or **scientists**. In addition to the essay, you will also be producing a short video commercial “selling” this person’s achievements that will include many of the same facts from the essay, but will of course be more whimsical and visual in nature.

Part I: The Essay

Please be sure to respond to the following prompt by developing a strong, well-defended thesis and subtopics:

What do you feel is the most significant achievement your individual should be remembered by?

Remember that your essay should be written in paragraph format and must include a thesis (an informed opinion) and subtopics that defend the thesis with evidence from your sources. You will be well-served to consider the “buckets” we have been using all semester, including religion, social structure, political structure, etc., etc. as you discuss a wide variety of achievements in order to justify your thesis which asserts that one singular contribution above all is paramount. You can also consider new categories in which to contextualize their contribution(s). This essay must be 3 pages (no more, no less), include proper MLA citations, and a Bibliography (see next heading).

The Bibliography

You will create a bibliography using MLA format (which we will review in class) to list all of the sources you used in the project. The Library website ([click here](#)) includes a full guide for your reference at home. The final bibliography will be on a separate page at the end of your essay.

Your Sources

You must use at least three sources, not including your textbook. These three sources must come from online databases ([click here](#)) or published books or e-books. You will use the databases and books that the librarians will show you. Should you choose to add an additional source(s) for this assignment, you still must use a reliable source if you consult the free Internet.

Part II: The video Product (commercial)

This project will be executed using a free software called Animoto. * If you have experience editing with other software, please let me know so I can approve it beforehand. The video will include six segments and the visuals that connect them (see below).

The Research behind the Commercial

Your video must include the research-based items below from your essay. It must include a large central slogan or title. In addition, it should include 6 “persuasive fact-based segments”. These segments will certainly include your thesis, as well as other contributions that you argued were less important in the essay. These should be facts that you select and write/type up in a “persuasive” manner to sell your individual’s achievements. They should be at least one sentence in length and be written in your own words to express persuasively, your individual’s contribution. The actual video itself will be composed of these segments and visuals that reflect these ideas (JPGs, web videos, scans, etc.)

In this video you will be asked to persuasively “sell” their ideas or contributions to their society in a video, utilizing conventions drawn from advertising. You must create a convincing and persuasive representation of them.

Grading Details

Your essay will be graded based on the quality of your research, structure, and argumentation. The final grade will be a composite of the essay and video. While your video will not be evaluated strictly on the basis of artistic ability, you are expected to make your commercial as dynamic and as visually rich as possible. Be creative and show real effort. The timing of the text and video will be highly considered. You will receive a copy of the grading rubric well in advance of the project due date.

Important Dates

You will have a couple of days to research the project in class. Furthermore, you will receive simple training on Animoto in class and have time to experiment with the software before you are off on your own.

The video and the essay all due on **Monday, January 12th**.

The essay and bibliography must be uploaded to turnitin.com. Included in the GoogleDoc draft and the turnitin.com document **MUST** be a link to your Animoto project. Individual links will not be graded.

(see next page)

Subjects for the project:

1. Hammurabi
2. Nebuchadnezzar
3. Siddhartha Gautama
4. Mahavira
5. Lao Tzu
6. Abraham
7. Cyrus
8. Zoroaster
9. Darius
10. Confucius
11. Ashoka
12. Laozi
13. Shi Huangdi
14. Cleisthenes
15. Aeschylus
16. Sophocles
17. Euripides
18. Aristophanes
19. Socrates
20. Pericles
21. Plato
22. Aristotle
23. Alexander the Great
24. Euclid
25. Archimedes
26. Herodotus
27. Wudi
28. Constantine
29. Tiberius
30. Nero
31. Marcus Aurelius
32. Cleopatra
33. Julius Caesar
34. Hannibal
35. St. Paul
36. Attila
37. Justinian
38. Theodora
39. Belisarius
40. Methodius
41. Harun al-Rashid
42. Khadija
43. Abu Bakr
44. Charlemagne
45. William of Normandy (The Conqueror)

Or others* ***See me for approval!***