

June, 2010

Dear Student,

Welcome to the eighth grade Social Studies honors class. The curriculum that you will be following begins with American citizenship and continues to early exploration of America, through to the writing of the Constitution. The project that you are required to complete during this summer is designed to introduce you to this course. There will also be an in-class writing assessment based on this project when you return to school.

Summer Assignment

Your task is to write a five-paragraph essay/diary entry that reveals when your ancestors entered this country, from where they came, and why they chose to immigrate to America. You will research the conditions (social, political, and economic) of your ancestor's country of origin. By completing the task, you will be able to compare "living conditions" of other countries to the United States of America. If you do not know where your ancestors came from, you must research a country and time period of your choice.

Requirements

1. Attach a sheet of notes. This sheet should include notes on the government, economic and social conditions of the country you are researching. This does not have to be typed but should be cohesive and complete. This sheet will be the basis for your writing. **This will be handed in with your project. (20 points)**
2. A typed bibliography is required. You must have at least three sources (Internet, encyclopedia, books, relatives, etc.) All of your sources cannot come from just the Internet or just your relatives. **(10 points)**
3. A cover sheet, that follows the KRHS format, must be included. Use the KRHS website, and click on "style sheets" for reference. **(10 points)**
4. A five-paragraph essay/diary entry. **(10 points per paragraph)**
First paragraph: Introduction
Second paragraph: Government Conditions
Third paragraph: Economic Conditions
Fourth paragraph: Social Conditions
Fifth paragraph: Conclusion

Each paragraph should include the information you researched, but make sure you write from a **personal perspective** (writing in first person). Therefore, you are acting as your relative.

5. Spelling and grammar are crucial aspects to good writing. Use spell and grammar checks and make sure that your sentences and paragraphs are cohesive. **(10 points)**

During the school year, this honors course requires a lot of research, reading, and writing. Your first research project, conducted this summer, serves as an important introduction to this process.

Have a great summer and have fun doing some great research!

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