Biography Project FINAL

For the past month, you have been reading a biography of a famous American. You have been learning as much as you possibly can about this person’s existence and the events that surrounded his/her life. Now, we are going to spend the month of November putting all of that information together to use in a project that you will present to your classmates, teachers, administrators, parents, and other community members. This presentation will utilize a tri-fold board, your computer, and the 3-D printer.

Here are the pieces that you will include in the final presentation:

1. A **biography web or timeline** (you already have a rough draft) that is visually pleasing and includes as much information as possible about the life of your famous American.

2. A **narrative poem** about one event in the life of your American. This poem will need to be at least one page, typed, double-spaced.

3. A **multi-media presentation** that will be narrated by you and will include your reading of the narrative poem listed as #2.

4. **Photographs** of your individual, with captions, displayed nicely on your project board.

5. A **3-D print** of something that is representative of the life of your famous American with a brief explanation of why you chose that object to display.

6. A **two or three-page essay** on the life of your individual which will include research from other sources as well as the biography you’ve read. An MLA works cited page is required.

Your projects will be due **Friday, December 1st**, and we will present them to an authentic audience sometime during the week of **December 4th-8th**.
The Essay:

Your essay over the life of your famous American should answer these questions in an essay format.
1. Who is this person and why is he/she famous?
2. What makes your individual interesting or influential?
3. Why would studying this person’s life be an important task for someone your age—or any age?
4. What are the values that this individual held/holds dear? In other words, what was/is most important to them?
5. How would your famous American answer our “BIG IDEA” questions: What does it mean to BE American? What are the values and culture of being American? And How can we give back to our society in a meaningful way?

You must get information for your essay from your biography as well as at least one article found on the library databases. You should also try to find something written about your American during their own lifetime. Every source you use should be cited correctly in an MLA works cited page as well as quoting/citing your sources directly in the essay.

The 3-D Print:
You must design an original piece to 3-D print for your project. This object should represent the life of your famous American in some way, shape, or form. You will learn to use the printer software and the printer from Ms. Cruz (library) before printing. You will need to have your requests for printing to Ms. Cruz before mid-November due to the high volume of printing needs and you’ll need to make an appointment to do the printing.

The Multi-media presentation:
For this presentation, you will need to make a video of some kind that encompasses the life of your individual. Part of the video will include your recording of the narrative poem over the event from the life of your person that you have chosen. You may use iMovie, PowerPoint, Prezi, or whatever suits the assignment. Remember: your voice will be recorded over the photos, pictures, videos etc.
The Narrative Poem:

Writing a narrative poem is not easy. It will take some time to get it “just right.”

*One of the oldest poetic forms in the world could be the perfect way to tell a story.*

Narrative poems – which simply mean “story poems” – are among the oldest forms of literature. Before there were printed books, people would tell stories through narrative poems, using rhythm, rhyme, repetition and vivid language to make their tales easy to remember and share. Many narrative poems are long, especially older ones like *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* by the famous Greek poet Homer. But a narrative poem can also be short, capturing a brief but emotionally intense or darkly mysterious event in just a few lines.

Many older narrative poems have a set rhythm and rhyme structure, but modern narrative poems often have very free rhythms and no rhyme at all, so there is some wiggle room! However, almost all narrative poems contain at least one main character and tell a story that has a beginning, middle, and end. The stories that narrative poems tell are often dramatic and compelling, yours will encompass one event from the life of your famous American. Once you’re ready to put together your own narrative poem, keep these guidelines in mind:

1. *Choose a topic.* Pick a story that you really want to tell, even if you can’t explain why. It should be an event from the life of your individual. You wrote diary entries to help with this assignment. Remember, the narrator of the poem will not be you; the narrator can be a character of your choice—it could be the individual or it could be someone who was present at the event.

2. *Make your voice heard.* If the narrator in your poem is experiencing a particular emotion, make sure that comes through in the words and the tone that you choose. A poem can be a snarl, a shout, a whisper or a cry, so pack it with feeling.

3. *Skip the build-up.* Narrative poems don’t waste words introducing characters or explaining the scene—most dive right in. Try starting your poem in the middle of the action scene to bring readers immediately into the heart of your story.

4. *Sweat the small stuff.* The best narrative poems use precise, descriptive words that bring out a story’s details and paint a rich picture. Think of the five senses and use adjectives that help describe what the world looks, sounds, smells, tastes, and feels like as the story unfolds so readers will experience it just like you do. For instance, reading about “breakfast” or “a fall day” doesn’t light the imagination, but reading about “soggy cornflakes and last night’s cold coffee” or “dead leaves that crunch underfoot” does.

5. *Repeat yourself.* This is an especially good strategy if your narrative poem is long. Try repeating key words or phrases that are emotional or musical a few times throughout the poem. (Remember Martin Luther King’s famous speech? He says “I have a dream” eight times during that speech, which is part of what makes it so powerful.)