The era that began the 1900’s in the United States was complicated and unique to the American experience. The country began the 20th century with thousands of Americans migrating from a rural existence to work in cities that were becoming increasingly industrialized. Along with the migration of current citizens, thousands more immigrants traveled to the United States in search of the “American Dream” with a “rags to riches” mentality.

Some interesting facts to come out of this time period include:

- In 1915, the constitutional amendment granting American women the right to vote had not yet passed.
- The population of Las Vegas was 22 in 1900, 800 in 1910, and 2,304 in 1920.
- In 1900, the average life expectancy for an American man was 48.3. The average life expectancy for a woman was 51.1.
- In 1913, the first dedicated gas station in the US opened in Pittsburgh. Before that, selling gas was a side business for various stores.
- In 1940 (just over 75 years ago), when the Census collected information on the plumbing in American homes, almost half lacked the trifecta of hot/cold water, a tub or shower, and a flush toilet.
- In 1901, Connecticut passed a law that included the country’s first speed limit: 15 mph on general roads and 12 mph within city limits.
- In 1938, the US set its first minimum wage: 25 cents an hour.
- In 1910, less than half of the US population lived in urban areas. (Today, it’s 80%.)

For this introductory presentation to the unit, your group will be studying one aspect/component/movement of this time period (1900-1939). You will put together a multi-media presentation that fully describes and explains the topic you’ve been given. You will take notes over each presentation and prepare for a quiz. After all presentations and the quiz, we will delve into some of the literature of this period for a more in-depth look at how writers and poets viewed the American experience.

Your presentation must include the following:

- At least 12 slides (if it’s a power-point) or 12 different “pages” in a Prezi. 1st slide will be the Title slide and the last one will be your works cited page.
- Two-three video clips embedded in the presentation
- The information for your topic should reflect what was happening in the United States from 1900-1939 including changes, innovations, trends, and its impact on society in general.
- You must have a works cited page that tells us where you found your information and the video clips. In your presentation, the last slide should have your works cited information.
- You must use at least 5 sources and 3 of them HAVE TO be articles/information from the following library databases. U.S. History, EBSCO, Literature, Science, Infobase/Bloom’s Literature, Opposing Viewpoints, Biography.

- Here’s the lib-guide for this unit. Find Mrs. Ortman and you’ll find your lib-guide.
  http://olatheschools.libguides.com/OW
Unit Topics (You will draw for your topic and then join together with others.)

- World War I
- Politics and Government
- Music and Dance (“The Jazz Age”)
- Literature, Writers, and Poets
- Economics (Tycoons/Workers/Industrialism)
- Prohibition
- Art and Artists
- Harlem Renaissance
- The Rise of Organized Crime (Al Capone)
- Science and Technology

Topic I’ve drawn:

People in my group including myself:

Preliminary research and thoughts: