Dear Student,

Every year, National History Day comes out with a new theme. The judges for your project will be looking to see that your chosen topic relates to this theme: *Rights and Responsibilities in History*. You could do your project on a right and the responsibilities that come with it; or you can also choose to concentrate on just a right or just a responsibility.

The dictionary defines a “right” as something you can claim you deserve. Some things to think about include:

- How have rights changed throughout history? Have women, children and people of color all shared the same rights? What about royalty or people in poser, do they have more rights than others? Are rights of some taken away in order to protect others? Is it just humans who have rights, or do animals and the environment have any rights?

Lots to think about when considering rights!

What is a responsibility?

When an individual has rights, they will also have responsibilities with those rights. Responsibilities are the things you should do because they are the right thing to do or they are necessary. For example, is it an individual’s responsibility to know the issues prior to exercising the right to vote?

You might just choose to concentrate on responsibilities.

- Does the government have a responsibility to help the poor? Is it the government’s responsibility to educate all students? Is it an athlete’s responsibility to be a role-model? Is it a parent’s responsibility to inoculate their children? What is the government’s responsibility when it comes to immigration? What about the death sentence?
Name ____________________

Social Studies Hour ______

Topic Choices Due Date: ________________

National History Day Project

*Rights and Responsibilities in History*

Choose three topics that you would be passionate about researching. You will then be required to do preliminary research on each of these ideas. After the preliminary research, you will decide which of the topics you will choose to conduct research and complete a NHD project.

1. Idea One ________________________________________________
   Why do you think this is an important right and/or responsibility in history?

2. Idea Two ________________________________________________
   Why do you think this is an important right and/or responsibility in history?

3. Idea Three _______________________________________________
   Why do you think this is an important right and/or responsibility in history?