**U.S. History: Popular Culture Decades Project**

**Objective**: For students to research various aspects of American culture during their assigned decade.  This is also an opportunity for students to work on research, communication and presentation skills.

**Directions**:

1. Students will work in groups of 4-6.
2. Each group member will select an aspect(s) of their era (see topics below) to research
3. Each project should include information on the following:

A)   Fashion/Clothing/Hairstyles (men and women)

B)   Music

C)   Entertainment/Recreation/Leisure

D)   Values (Culture, what was important, slang, etc.)

H)   Sports

1. This project should provide the audience with an overall idea of what happened during that decade and what it would be like to live during that time period.
2. This project will focus on the correlation between popular culture and political, economic, and social events happening during a given period in the United States.
3. After researching the topic, students will need to present their information

**Required:**

* 1. Multimedia presentation using Power Point, Prezi, Google Slides, etc.

B) The presentation should be multi-media (i.e. video clips, display board, PowerPoint, music from CD or IPod, You Tube, Phones, etc.)

c) The presentation should answer the questions provided, but focus on the “Discussion Question” for the majority of the time spent on that topic.

1. Presentation should take a minimum of 35 minutes per group – it should be an interactive, “lived experience”.

**Project requirements**:

1. Thorough information provided about the assigned decade
2. At least 6 different sources are used for researching the decade
3. All group members must partake in researching and putting the project together – it must be identified who was responsible for what
4. The presentation must be multi-media
5. Need to include a bibliography

**Step 1 - Research and Data (must use at least 6 sources)**

**1.** **Fashion**

A)   What type of clothing was popular during that time period?

B)   Popular accessories?

C)   Popular hairstyles?

D)   Make sure to illustrate difference between Men and Women and also social classes

“Discussion Question”: How does the clothing/fashions of this decade reflect the attitudes of society? Be sure to discuss different fashions for different demographic groups.

**2.** **Music**

A)   What type music was popular during that time period?

B)   What musicians were popular?

C)   Try to find specific examples that could be listened to in class

“Discussion Question”: Pick two songs from this decade that could be classified as “political” or “socially relevant” songs. Play them for the class. Explain the issue that the writer/artist was attempting to bring attention to.

**3.**   **Recreation/Leisure**

A)   What venue was used for entertainment? (movies, music, television, etc)

B)   Popular activities (dances, games)

C)   Food - What was the American diet like?  Popular restaurants and/or meal?  Usually cook at home or dine out? (Bring samples)

“Discussion Question”: Choose two examples of how an entertainment venue was used to reflect an issue of society of your decade. It could be a TV show, movie, dance, etc.

OR

Prepare some food for the class that was popular during your decade. Be sure to explain what it was, how it was served, where, when, etc.

**4.**   **Values/culture**

A)   What was important to the American people during that time period?

B)   What was the attitude towards rights of minorities?

C)   Were there any movements or revolutions during that time period?

D)   Were there any popular sayings or slang?

“Discussion Question”: Every decade has been classified, (i.e. The Roaring 20’s). How would you label/classify your decade? Explain why.

**5.**   **Sports**

A)   What were some fantastic outcomes of contests?

B) Who were some popular athletes of the decade?

C)   Where were the Olympics that decade? Were there any amazing accomplishments from them?

“Discussion Question”: Each decade has athletes that define the issues of the decade. Choose two athletes whose importance to society far surpasses their contributions to the sport that they played. Examples could be Jackie Robinson, Muhammad Ali, Billy Jean King, the 1980 Olympic Men’s Hockey Team, etc. Be sure to include video footage, either actual footage or a movie account of the person/team.

**Step 2 - Project**

1. Be sure to include diagrams, graphs, photographs or other visuals to illustrate information about the time
2. The presentation should be multi-media (i.e. video clips, display board, PowerPoint, music from CD or IPod, You Tube, etc.)
3. **Include a TYPED bibliography (MLA or APA format)/work cited**
4. **AND include a typed list of all group members and what each group member was responsible for**
5. The presentation should be a “lived experience” – make it interactive!
6. Presentations should take a minimum of 35 minutes (your group will have the 5 minutes to set up).
7. Have fun and be creative!

**Pop Culture Decades Project**

**4 = Exemplary     3 = Very Good     2 = Satisfactory   1 = Needs Work**

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|  | **Presentation Rubric** | **Teacher** |
|  | Content:  Includes thorough information on all assigned topics of the decade.  Information is clear and accurate. | \_\_ × 8 = \_\_\_ |
|  | Multi-media: Students use at least 2 types of mediums during the presentation.  Mediums used were effective. | \_\_×4  = \_\_\_ |
|  | Visual Aids:  At least 2 visual aids are provided during the presentation.  Aids clearly illustrated information. | \_\_× 4 = \_\_\_ |
|  | Overall Presentation:  Organized and fluent presentation, with use of visual aids, an attention getter, introduction and conclusion.  Students present an engaging presentation that is easy to follow information. | \_\_ × 6 = \_\_\_ |
|  | Total points possible:  88 | Total:  \_\_\_\_ |

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|  | **Research** | **Teacher** |
|  | Documentation: Used at least 6 different sources.  Included source information (MLA or APA format) with the project. | \_\_\_ x 4 = \_\_\_ |
|  | Thoroughness:  Researched decade thoroughly.  Answered all questions in each section. | \_\_\_ ×4 = \_\_\_ |
|  | Total points possible:  32 | Total:  \_\_\_\_ |

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/120                   Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_