

“Jump-Start” Extra Credit Projects

The “sizes” are listed only to help define how big the project is expected to be in each category--they are also an indicator of how many points one may potentially earn. This is just a guide however. Point will be awarded on terms of evidence of effort and learning.

-----Small-----

Short Essay – Write a short (5 paragraph) essay about a historic or cultural topic that interests you. This may be a good opportunity to explore a “history” question that has been floating around the back of your mind.

You will turn in: a typed 5-paragraph essay

Read a Book – read a book about a cultural or historical topic that interests you.

You will turn in: A short book report (min. 1 page) that identifies the book, author, publication date, topic, and what you found most interesting about the book.

Read a Friend or Family Members Favorite Book – this may be ANY book (as long as the reporting of such is appropriate for public school).

You will turn in: A short book report that identifies the book, author, publication date, topic, and what you found most interesting about the book. YOU MUST ALSO add a short section about why your friend likes this particular book so much.

Movie Project 1 – View a movie about a historical event. Write a short movie review: What was the story about? When did the story take place? Who were the characters? Did you believe the actors were really the character they were portraying? Was it a good film?

You will turn in: A short movie review.

Movie Project 2 – View a “real life” movie and research the historical/cultural accuracy of some aspect of the film you find interesting. Can they really do that? How did they do that? Why does it happen that way?

You will turn in: A typed essay about your findings.

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Exploration Project – Explore something or somewhere and report the historical or cultural significance of what you find. The way you report this is up to you.

You will turn in/ present: A written report, video, slide show, oral report, or another format of your choice.

Country Research – Chose a country that interests you. Collect resources about that country. Valuable resources may be found on the Internet, in books and magazines, by interviewing someone from there, or even by writing to the Department of Tourism or Embassy of your chosen country.

You will turn in: A log of what you have found, read, tasted, seen, or ordered.

Annotated Bibliography – Research any topic of interest to you. Create an “annotated bibliography” of sources you find about your topic. Your annotations should be 5-7 sentences each explaining why each source is important to your topic.

You will turn in: an “annotated bibliography” This will be assigned points base on the number of sources/annotations and the depth of your annotations.

Art – Create a piece of art with historic or cultural significance.

You will turn in: Prepare a written explanation of what you did, the historical or cultural element you worked with, and what you learned.

Visit a Historic Site – Visit a place of historical significance. Collect some “artifacts” from your visit (brochures, information, pictures, etc).

You will turn in: A short report of you visit highlighting what you found most interesting.

Hint: If you are traveling over the holidays, look on the Internet for “points of interest” wherever it is you are going.

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Research Project – Research a historical or cultural topic of your choice. Find a minimum of five sources (audio, video, written, electronic) about your topic. After reviewing your sources, write a 3-5 page essay in MLA format citing all five of your sources.

Life Magazine Project – Through 60 years of publication “Life” magazine has published pictures and stories about thousands of topics. Find a “Life” magazine and spend some time looking at the ads, pictures, and stories. Choose one of those ads, pictures, or stories and research the historical significance of that “event.” Find 5 additional sources (audio, video, written, electronic) about your topic. After reviewing your sources, write an essay in MLA format citing all five of your sources.

You will turn in: A photocopy of your “event” from the magazine and an essay (MLA format) about your topic.

Comic Book – create a comic book about a historical of cultural topic that interests you.

You will turn in: A comic book you have created.

Build a Website – Build a website based on a historic or cultural theme. Your site should be a useful tool for anyone who comes across it.

You will turn in: Your URL.

Video Project – Create a video about a historical topic that interests you. You may choose to act, direct, and produce your own “movie” OR perhaps just use the video as a medium to convey your idea creatively.

You will turn in: A videotape, CD, or DVD. This project should be longer than 10 minutes, but no more than 1 hour in length.

-----**Super Size**-----

Ethnography Project – This is a considerable undertaking. “Ethnography” is a type of research in which you explore a topic through another’s eyes. Start by finding an “informant,” someone who was an eyewitness to your topic. Next, prepare a series of questions that you will use to guide your discussion with your informant; these should be very open-ended questions allowing your informant to talk about anything and everything they remember about your topic. Meet with your informant and talk to them about your topic. THIS IS NOT AN INTERVIEW in the sense that you should put aside all of your preconceived ideas and just listen to what your informant offers. Try not to lead, let them be the expert. You just listen. Finally, write up your discussion and then use that as your source for writing a paper about your topic. It will help you if you take notes, record the audio, or video for later review.

You will turn in: your discussion notes, your discussion write up, and your final typed topic paper (3-5 pages in length).

Hint: This would be a good project to do over the holidays if you have a chance to see family or friends that have experienced an event in “history.” (Everyone has experienced something)