**Wakefield High School**

**American History II Honors Project**

**Contemporary American History Project**

This Honors project is designed to meet the following goals:

1. Encourage independent learning, critical thinking, and development of communication skills.
2. Enable students to demonstrate their ability to develop and present a professional style presentation.
3. Provide students the opportunity to develop a deep understanding of modern conflict, geography, and cultural relations.
4. Allow students to showcase their strengths by providing them with several choices regarding their topic for research, presentation methods, research types, and writing choices.
5. Encourage students to improve their 21st Century skills of problem solving, researching, utilizing technology, complete independent tasks, and managing their responsibilities.

**Directions:**

You, along with a maximum of one partner, are to research a single current, relevant topic important to the United States. You will need to research the presidential approaches of Nixon through Obama dealing with your particular issue chosen. When you have completed the necessary research for your topic, you will need to compile the information together into a 3-5 minute presentation, which will be shared with the entire class the week of January 5-9.

**The following issues are available for research:**

* Abortion
  + This includes stem cell research
* Agriculture
* Automobile Industry
* Banking
* Bioethics
  + This includes GMOs and cloning
* Budget Crisis/National Deficit
* Defense Spending
* Disaster Relief Programs
* Drug Control
* Education
* Foreign Policy with:
  + Africa
  + Asia
  + Central America
  + Eastern Europe
  + Indian Sub-continent
  + Middle East
  + South America
  + Western Europe
* Gun Control/Crime Prevention
* Immigration
* Distribution of Wealth
* Energy Crisis
* Environment
* Health Care
* Housing Market/Crisis
* Labor Unions
* LGBT Rights
* Minimum Wage
* Privacy Rights
  + This includes privacy rights online and file-sharing laws
* Racial Equality
* Senior Citizens Rights
* Space Program
* Terrorism
  + This includes domestic and foreign terrorism
* Trade
* Unemployment
* Women’s Rights

**Steps:**

1. Research the background to your topic.
2. Research each of the presidents’ individual approaches to handling the topic.
3. Find a quote about the topic from each of the presidents.
4. Research how this topic impacts the everyday life of the average American citizen.
5. Compile a hard copy of all of the completed research and citations to be turned into your teacher by January 5 (Monday).
6. Present your research to the class in a creative format during the week of January 5-9, 2015.

**Your project must include:**

1. Background information on your topic
   1. What is it?
   2. When did it first become an issue?
   3. Has it changed or become larger/smaller as an issue?
2. Richard M. Nixon’s approach to the issue
   1. Approach #1
   2. Approach #2
   3. Approach #3
   4. Quote from Nixon
3. Gerald Ford’s approach to the issue
   1. Approach #1
   2. Approach #2
   3. Approach #3
   4. Quote from Ford
4. Jimmy Carter’s approach to the issue
   1. Approach #1
   2. Approach #2
   3. Approach #3
   4. Quote from Carter
5. Ronald Reagan’s approach to the issue
   1. Approach #1
   2. Approach #2
   3. Approach #3
   4. Quote from Reagan
6. George H. W. Bush’s approach to the issue
   1. Approach #1
   2. Approach #2
   3. Approach #3
   4. Quote from Bush
7. Bill Clinton’s approach to the issue
   1. Approach #1
   2. Approach #2
   3. Approach #3
   4. Quote from Clinton
8. George W. Bush’s approach to the issue
   1. Approach #1
   2. Approach #2
   3. Approach #3
   4. Quote from Bush
9. Barack Obama’s approach to the issue
   1. Approach #1
   2. Approach #2
   3. Approach #3
   4. Quote from Obama
10. How should the next president approach this issue?
    1. Suggestion #1
    2. Suggestion #2
    3. Suggestion #3
11. How this issue impacts everyday American life
    1. You can present from a general perspective or your own personal perspective. This must be a minimum of one full paragraph (5 sentences).
12. Work Cited in **Chicago** format
    1. You must include at least ONE print resource
    2. Wikipedia, Answers.com, and the like are NOT valid resources

**Example of Chicago Style Citation:**

Byrne, Lisa. "American History PowerPoints." Ms. Byrne's Social Studies Classroom Website. August 25, 2012. Accessed December 10, 2014.

**Citation Generation Websites:**

[**www.citationmachine.net**](http://www.citationmachine.net)

[**www.bibme.org**](http://www.bibme.org)

[**www.citefast.com**](http://www.citefast.com)

[**www.easybib.com**](http://www.easybib.com)

[**www.citationcreation.com**](http://www.citationcreation.com)

[**www.library.unc.edu/citationbuilder**](http://www.library.unc.edu/citationbuilder)

**You may choose from the following methods of presentation:**

* PowerPoint (min. of 12 slides)
* Prezi (min. of 12 slides)
* Storybird (min. of 20 pages)
* Glogster (must include the use of visuals, color, words, etc.)
* Poster (must include the use of visuals, color, words, etc.)
* Powtoon (min. of 12 slides)
* Create a video (min. of three minutes in length)
* Create a song/rap (min. of three minutes in length)
* Other method approved by teacher

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| CATEGORY | **25-20** | **19-15** | **14-10** | **9-0** |
| **Requirements** | All requirements are met and exceeded. | All requirements are met. | One requirement was not completely met. | More than one requirement was not completely met. |
| **Content** | Covers topic in-depth with details and examples. Subject knowledge is excellent. | Includes essential knowledge about the topic. Subject knowledge appears to be good. | Includes essential information about the topic but there are 1-2 factual errors. | Content is minimal OR there are several factual errors. |
| CATEGORY | **25-20** | **19-15** | **14-10** | **9-0** |
| **Mechanics** | No misspellings or grammatical errors. | Three or fewer misspellings and/or mechanical errors. | Four misspellings and/or grammatical errors. | More than 4 errors in spelling or grammar. |
| **Oral Presentation** | Interesting, well-rehearsed with smooth delivery that holds audience attention. | Relatively interesting, rehearsed with a fairly smooth delivery that usually holds audience attention. | Delivery not smooth, but able to hold audience attention most of the time. | Delivery not smooth and audience attention lost. |
| **Sources** | Source information collected for all graphics, facts and quotes. All documented in desired format. | Source information collected for all graphics, facts and quotes. Most documented in desired format. | Source information collected for graphics, facts and quotes, but not documented in desired format. | Very little or no source information was collected. |

**Research Due Date: January 5, 2015**

**Presentations: January 5-9, 2015**