

American Studies “Royal Rumble”

2ND ANNUAL AMERICAN STUDIES COMPETITION PROJECT

On December 9, 2016, your class will engage in an epic intellectual battle for American Studies supremacy, in addition to a wealth of riches and spoils. This ten round competition will pit your American Studies class against the other American Studies class to **prove whether the modern changes of the 1920s were improving society or destroying its traditional values and culture**. The winning class will receive the much sought after American Studies Cup in addition to a Pizza Party hosted by the losing class.

PROCESS OVERVIEW

Each class will be assigned either the traditionalist or modernist perspective and tasked with arguing **whether the modern changes of the 1920s were improving society or destroying its traditional values and culture**. Each class will be divided into 10 groups, each assigned a different topic of the 1920s in which modernist and traditionalist views are highlighted. You will need to thoroughly research your topic with your group, making sure to understand both sides of the traditionalist/modernist debate. The group will then be responsible for creating a 6-8 minute presentation/skit that will convince the judges of the superiority of your argument. The class that accumulates the most points will be pronounced the superior class.

STEPS CHECKLIST:

1. You will be assigned a group topic and guiding question and whether you will be supporting the traditionalist or modernist point of view
2. Complete a spiderweb to breakdown your topic into subtopics
3. Research your topic and annotate at least three sources. Your researched information should assist in answering your assigned question.
4. As a group, discuss and analyze research to identify a clear argument and find specific evidence to support it
5. Begin organizing information and work on drafting a script for your presentation (6-8 minutes in length)
6. Create an iMovie trailer that presents a preview of your group's presentation
7. Complete one group works cited that contains all individual sources and citations
8. Complete script and conference with teachers in class
9. Create a brief abstract for students to read prior to your presentation. They will be read on the day of presentations.
10. Rehearse presentation during class and in front of another group
11. **Presentation Day:** Friday, December 9 *Mandatory Attendance*

RESEARCH

Research will be checked frequently for credit throughout the research process, however it is your responsibility to keep up the distributed schedule. Of particular importance will be the quality of your research and your expertise level on your assigned topic. Focus on quality, not quantity!

Throughout the research process, you will utilize a variety of source types, but remember that the Media Center has a wealth of electronic databases and print sources (books and reference books) for your research pleasure. You will not need to use (and we will not see or accept) websites as source types for this project.

What will be checked for credit:

1. Individual spiderweb on topic
2. Chosen method of annotation
3. At least **three** annotated sources (both print and database source types)
4. MLA Works Cited
5. There will be check-ins and additional grades along the way

PRESENTATIONS

While topics would easily lend themselves to a formal debate format, you and your group will be required to create a unique and engaging presentation to win over the judges. You will only have 6-8 minutes to make your argument clear, so the more creative the better. All group members must actively participate in the presentation, including a speaking role. Your group will be asked to provide a detailed script for the presentation, as extemporaneous speaking will be interpreted as a lack of preparation. During the presentation you may use notecards as long as you do not rely entirely on them. No scripts will be allowed during the presentation.

JUDGES AND POINTS

There will be three guest judges who score your presentations. Each judge will be scoring your presentation based on either the content, persuasiveness of the argument, and the creativity of the presentation. In addition to the judges' scores, the audience will be periodically asked questions to assess how well members of each American Studies class are paying attention. These questions will be scored and will be added to the team's overall score. Not only is it important that you are well prepared for your presentation, it is also crucial that you are attentive during each and every presentation.

iMOVIE TRAILER:

In preparation for the presentation, each group will create an iMovie Trailer as a preview of your argument. These trailers will be shown to both classes the week before the presentation. In creating these trailers, you must use iMovie and it is strongly recommended that you use one of the trailer templates to ensure the preview is 1-2 minutes in length. In the trailer you must make your argument very clear to your audience. Also, be creative and try to outshine your American Studies counterpart with your 1-2 minute preview.

GRADING

Advertisement - iMovie Trailer (15% of your grade)

- ☐ Element that generates interest and excitement
- ☐ Clear articulation of your group's argument

Process (50% of your grade)

- ☐ Engagement with each step
- ☐ Identifies and implements steps necessary to completing goal
- ☐ Creativity and discussion

- ☐ Incorporates feedback and revision into the project
- ☐ Reflection on successes and struggles

Script (15% of your grade)

- ☐ Must be complete and include roles for all members of the group
- ☐ Must be 6-8min in length (during timed run-throughs)

Participation (20% of your grade)

- ☐ Completed group journal or division of labor sheet documenting what work is done, work yet to be done, and who is doing what (Each member will take turns completing this for the group)
- ☐ Respectful and active participant throughout the process: All group members are to actively participate in all portions of the process including: research, planning, rehearsal and presentation (as audience member and presenter).

***Failure to meet deadlines will result in loss of credit for the entire group**

Division of Responsibilities

Group: _____

Team Member Name: _____

Group Tasks: Collected and/or assessed

_____ Completed group spiderweb

_____ Thoroughly annotated at least 3 sources

_____ Thoroughly researched your assigned topic

_____ Created a Works Consulted from your research

_____ Created iMovie trailer that generates interest and excitement

_____ Created an abstract that covers your topic clearly and concisely

_____ Completed a script that demonstrates knowledge and creativity of all subtopics and group topic

_____ Completed this tracking sheet