**United States History**

**Semester One Project: You’re the Voice**

**Introduction:**

Many times in history people take a bold stance for their convictions. Although they are in the minority, they have the courage to express their thoughts and the strength to endure the criticisms. Occasionally, they end up being on the “right side of history,” but not always. You will be exploring one of these people in a research paper.

**STEP 1:** Select a person. Consider the following list carefully. You will need to find a person and a decision that you can live with for the next eight weeks. No more than 2 people per topic.

**COLONIAL PERIOD**

* Christopher Columbus
* Roger Williams
* Anne Hutchinson
* Pocahontas
* William Penn
* El Popay
* John Peter Zenger
* Hugh Bryan
* Herman Husband
* Eliza Lucas Pinckney

**REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD**

* Deborah Sampson
* Thomas Paine
* Abigail Adams
* James Chalmers
* William Franklin
* Joseph Brant
* Anthony Benezet

**EARLY REPUBLIC**

* Daniel Shays
* Thomas Jefferson
* John Marshall
* Tecumseh
* Tenkswatwa
* Denmark Vesey
* DeWitt Clinton

**JACKSONIAN AMERICA**

* Samuel Worcester
* John C. Calhoun
* Joseph Smith
* Henry David Thoreau
* David Walker
* Frederick Douglass
* Sarah Grimke
* Elizabeth C. Stanton
* William L. Garrison
* Dorothea Dix
* Horace Mann
* Harriet Tubman
* Neal Dow
* Nat Turner
* Sojourner Truth
* John Humphrey Noyes
* John Quincy Adams

**SECTIONALISM**

* David Wilmot
* Harriet Beecher Stowe
* Charles Sumner
* Preston Brooks
* John Brown
* Dred Scott
* Roger Taney

**STEP 2:** Research your person to gain an overview of his or her life. FOCUS mostly on the events or writings that show demonstration of courage or expression of an opinion that runs counter the majority.

**STEP 3:** Focus on the courage by trying to answer the questions below.

* How did this person show courage?
* How did this person take a stand (either in action or in writing) for something that was not popular at the time?
* What beliefs, influences, religious ideas, or experiences helped this person take a stand?
* What was the majority position at the time of the stance? Why did most everyone think, belief, or act in a way that was considered the “right way”?
* How did this person’s stand affect him or her? Was he or she abused? Mistreated? Did this person lose income? Did others laugh at his or her expense? Did he or she have to give up something important to fight for his or her beliefs?
* What was the result of the stance? Did it change history at the time? Was this stance ignored by the majority at the time with no effect on history? Did the person back down from his or her position?

**STEP 4:** Take detailed, reliable research notes.

* You are required to have at LEAST 3 different sources. One may be an electronic database such as *American National Biography*, another may be an online source such as a professor’s website, and the final must be a print source (yes, the library still has books-though some of these are *electronic* in format). You may have MORE than 3 sources if you wish.
* Take notes on your sources, including the page numbers of where you get your information. For electronic sources, page numbers are not required. For each source, you should write down:
  + The name of the author of the source (if it is available).
  + The title of the source.
  + Where the source was published, by what company, and when
  + For internet sources: the URL of the webpage and the date you visited it.
* You will be using the MLA format for your paper, meaning that you will provide in-text *parenthetical citations* for your paper as well as a works cited page at the end. A handout will give instructions for how to do MLA format.

**STEP 5:** Write a 900-1300 word (3 -4 pages) rough draft.

**Paragraph 1:** This will be the introduction to your person and his or her decision. The introduction should be general. You should:

* Tell a little bit about the person and his or her act of courage.
* Set the scene – When was this courageous act? Under what general circumstances? Was it during a war? On a plantation?
* Give summary of the consequences of the courageous decision its significance for American history.

**Paragraphs 2 - 3:** These paragraphs will explain the background to the person’s courageous act. How did his or her life before the decision lead up to the act of courage? What events shaped this person’s role at a particular place and time in history?

**Paragraphs 4 - 5:** These paragraphs will explain the person’s mental universe when he or she acted courageously. You should examine the person’s assumptions, beliefs, morals, and world views. Contrast your person’s beliefs with the beliefs of the majority at the time—why did most everyone believe and act differently from your person?

**Paragraphs 6 – 7:** These paragraphs will explain how the courageous act affected your person. Did he or she suffer? Did the majority force your person to back down? What did your person have to endure in order to maintain his or her courageous stance? Did your person’s stance change history in any significant way at the time?

**Paragraph 8:** This paragraph will conclude the paper. Summarize your main points about your person’s act of courage and remind your reader of the importance this courageous act has in American history.

**Works Cited:** This is the last page of your paper.

**Timeline for the Project**

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| --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **I WILL HAVE DONE (BY THE DATE):** |
| **October 16, 2014**  **LIBRARY** | Brainstorm  Who are you interested in for the project? Do research about your person to find out if he or she interests you.  Begin to take notes from **3** sources about your person. |
| **October 17, 2014**  **LIBRARY** | I will have read and taken notes on **3 sources** about my person.  I will conference with DKO about my project. |
| **October 30, 2014** | I will have finished my research notes (3 sources). |
| **November 7, 2014** | I will have written **Paragraphs 2 – 3** about my person. |
| **November 14, 2014** | I will have written **Paragraphs 4 - 5** about my person. |
| **November 21, 2014** | I will have written **Paragraphs 6 - 7** about my person. |
| **November 25, 2014** | Computer lab workday for the paper. I will answer questions about the writing, help with drafts, and answer questions as they arise. |
| **December 5, 2014** | I will have written my **introduction and conclusion** (remember that they are similar with different words). |
| **December 12, 2013** | I **will submit my final copy of the research paper to Turnitin\* after going through the paper checklist.** |

**Paper Checklist**

**MECHANICS and SOURCES**

* I have eliminated spelling errors, punctuation errors, and grammar errors in my paper.
* I have read my paper out loud so that I can check for how it sounds and flows.
* I have three sources, properly cited (MLA Style) on my works cited page.
* I have provided in-text citations (MLA style) for every fact about my person that I use in my paper (at least **one in-text citation** for each paragraph).

**FORMAT**

* My paper is double-spaced.
* My paper contains a heading with my name, the date, and the teacher.
* My paper has a title.
* My paper has 1 inch margins.
* My paper is written in Times New Roman, 12-point font.
* My works cited is on a separate page at the end of my paper.

**CONTENT**

* My introduction provides the reader with an introduction to the person and why his or her courageous act is important.
* I focus my first body paragraphs on showing what led up to the courageous act.
* I use my next body paragraphs to show the mental universe of the person as he or she acted courageously.
* I use my final body paragraphs to show the consequences of the courageous act and its significance to American history.
* I explain all facts about my person by not assuming that the reader is familiar with them.
* I conclude my paper with a re-statement of person’s courageous act and its importance.