

## SUMMER ASSIGNMENT - SOPHOMORES

### WHAT IS YOUR TRUTH?

We each have personal recollections of our past events, personal memories, and vivid, imaginative accounts of our lives. These memories create a springboard for the stories that will provide us with a precious link to our past. Throughout this project, you will learn the basics for and the importance of recording your own family history. Each of these experiences binds us to our history and to the history of our nation. As you share your family stories, there is an awareness created of how interconnected many of us are, and of how the history of a nation and of its people is reflected in their stories.

Throughout this project, you will explore both your family's heritage and legacy. Using the packet of information provided, you will complete a research study aimed at connecting family stories. The final product will be showcased in a portfolio, electronic or non-electronic, and presented to the class. Please advised that this portfolio may be shared with other students, so be careful **not** want to include any artifacts in case of potential loss or damage.

This is what your portfolio must include:

#### **Part I. Self-Exploration**

Timeline of major events

Historical overview of world events in the year you were born

Roots and meaning of your name

Self-Exploration Survey informed bio poem

#### **Part II. Family History**

Interview

Written history

Artifacts and photos

#### **Part III. Reflection**

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### **Part I. Self-Exploration**

#### ***Timeline of major events***

When we chart history, we often use a timeline. A timeline helps us to see what events happened in a person's life. Create a timeline for your own life. It can take any form and be as artistic as you like, but should include major events, dates, and places. Major events might include: riding a bike, moving to another state or house, the birth of a stepbrother, or a favorite Christmas. You must include a minimum of 6 important events on your timeline.

#### ***Historical overview of world events in the year of your birth***

Research and create a visual organizer compiling important global information and events from the year you were born. You must include a minimum of 10 important facts and/or events.

#### ***Roots and meaning of your first name***

How did you get your first name? Was it passed down through the family for generations? What is the story behind it? Look up the meaning of your name. Create a visual that includes your name, story of how you got the name, and the meaning/origin of it.

#### ***Bio-poem***

Complete the *Self-Exploration Survey* to the best of your ability. The more information you provide the better your bio-poem will become. Include your completed survey with your final project. Write an autobiographical poem including information from your questionnaire. The beautiful thing about poetry is that it needs no rhythm or rhyme.

### **Bio-Poem Method:**

- Line 1: First Name**
- Line 2: Four descriptive traits...**
- Line 3: Sibling of...**
- Line 4: Lover of...**
- Line 5: Who fears...**
- Line 6: Who needs...**
- Line 7: Who gives...**
- Line 8: Who would like to see...**
- Line 9: Resident of...**
- Line 10: Last Name**

*Place poem in the center of your paper, and fill the margins with pictures, words, images, etc. that reflect who you are and what makes you so special.*

### **Self-Exploration Survey (You do not have to do all of these questions)**

- What is your birth date?
- Where were you born?
- What kind of work do your parents do?
- Have you gone on family vacations? If so, where?
- What kinds of things does your family do for fun?
- What kinds of responsibilities (work or chores) do you have?
- What is your favorite funny family story?
- What is your favorite food prepared by your family?
- Does your family have any special traditions? What are they?
- What kinds of songs or nursery rhymes did you learn from your parents?
- What were your favorite games or toys as a child?
- How would you describe the discipline in your household?
- Where were you when you first heard about September 11<sup>th</sup>? What was your reaction?
- What is your most favorite memory from Frosh year?
- What is your greatest concern/fear about sophomore year?

## **Part II. Family History**

### ***Interview***

Choose a family member to interview and type up a list of questions and the responses given. Refer to the *List of Possible Interview Questions* sheet to get you started. Add on questions that you feel are relevant and delete those that are not.

### ***Written history***

Using information obtained from your interview, compile a one-page typed summary of your family history. Specific details and stories are especially interesting and will enhance your writing greatly.

### ***Artifacts and photos***

This section of your project allows you to add any family photos and artifacts. All materials will be returned to you. Identify all items and photos included in this section. If an item is fragile or particularly old and valuable, please do not include it with your project.

### **Part III. Reflection**

#### ***Reflection statement***

In a one-page typed summary, please reflect on this entire process. What did you learn or discover? What did you find challenging? What do you want to learn more about? What resources were particularly helpful in completing this research project? What family information obtained would you wish to pass on to the future generations of your family?

#### **List of Possible Interview Questions (You don't have to do all of these)**

- What is your name and do you know how you came to have that name?
- What kinds of things did your family do for fun?
- What kinds of responsibilities (work or chores) did you do?
- What is your favorite funny family story?
- What was your favorite food that was prepared by your family?
- Did you family have any special traditions?
- What kinds of songs or nursery rhymes did you learn from your parents or grandparents?
- Do you ever use any remedies or medicines for illness that your family considers more effective than today's medicine?
- Did you have any traditions or celebrations that were held at holidays or special times?
- What did you do for entertainment when you were my age?
- What kinds of fads do you remember?
- What were your favorite games and/or toys?
- How did your clothing at my age compare to clothing today?
- Compare transportation when you were my age to transportation today.
- Describe any items that your or other family members have that have been handed down through generations of the family.
- What is your favorite story about your family?
- Do you have any brothers or sisters? If so, what are their names and ages?
- Where did you grow up?
- What religion did your parents pass down to you? Do you have any special observances or practices attached with that religion?
- What do you like to do to relax?
- Name a major historical event in your life. Where were you when it happened? What do you remember from that time?
- What was your early home life like? How was it heated and lighted? How did you get water? When did you get indoor plumbing? Did you have any household chores?
- What are your memories of your parents? Did your mom work; what did she do? Did your dad work; what did he do?
- What were your school days like? How did you get to school? What did you study?
- What was dating, courtship, marriage like?
- What was the name of your favorite grammar school teacher? Why was she/he your favorite?
- Who are your best friends? How did you meet them? Why have you remained close?
- What is your astrological sign?
- What is your favorite color?
- Do you have any pets? If so, state their name(s) and the type of animal.
- Where did you grow up? Name the parish or neighborhood.
- Who was your favorite high school teacher? What was your favorite high school subject?
- What was/is your favorite musical group? What was/is your favorite song?
- What is your favorite movie? Your favorite book?
- What do you like to do to relax?

**Sophomore Summer Assignment**  
*What is Your Truth?*  
**RUBRIC**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Element	Not Evident	Incomplete	Satisfactory	Rockstar!	Score
Timeline of major events	0	1	2	3	
Historical world events in the year you were born	0	1	2	3	
Root(s) & meaning of your name	0	1	2	3	
Self Exploration Survey and bio-poem	0	1	2	3	
Interview: questions and answers	0	1	2	3	
Written history: one-page summary of family history	0	1	2	3	
Artifacts and Photos	0	1	2	3	
Reflection Statement: one page, typed	0	1	2	3	
<b>Subtotal:</b>					

**Grammar & Conventions (5 pts.)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Creativity (5 pts.)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Neatness & Presentation (5 pts.)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Binder, Dividers, & Attached Rubric (5 points)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

**TOTAL POINTS** \_\_\_\_\_ /44

