**Historical Analysis of Leo Tolstoy, *Hadji Murat* and Alexander Pushkin, *Journey to Arzrum***

From its scenery to the culture and people, Russia has had an indisputably colorful background. In order to analyze the historical importance and relevance of events and paint a picture of Russia’s workings, it is necessary to include not only readings completed over the course of this semester, but it is necessary to bring other firsthand accounts into perspective.

Day I:

* Russians surprised that Chechnians are civilized p14
* Chechnians have gambling problem, lose all money, “borrow” from other places to pay off debt
* Heavy drinkers (checknians)
* Need a sense of excitement, hwant to get out of st Petersburg life
* Nicholas portrayed in very bad light
  + People lie to him just to appease
  + Lacks morals – justifies cheating on wife by saying other woman not as pretty
* Shamil leader of chechnia and hadji both portrayed in very good light
* Hadji goes through motions at theater showing he doesn’t care for the nobility way of life

Relate this to the tale of to generals where they get fed by the peasant  
Also relate to the article on peter the great’s reforms and the impact they had on Russian morale

Day II:

Paper Ideas:

* Views from Russians on local populations vs views of local populations on Russians
  + Crimea vs Russia
  + Chechnia vs Russia
* Negative effects of Russian expansion
  + Culture change forced
  + Gambling
  + Alcoholism
  + War and death
* Positive effects of Russian expansion
  + New culture and ways of life
  + Fresh eyes seeing how to improve lands
  + New religions
  + Trade benefits
* **How does Russia achieve goals through actions and governing, and is it an effective and sustainable method?**