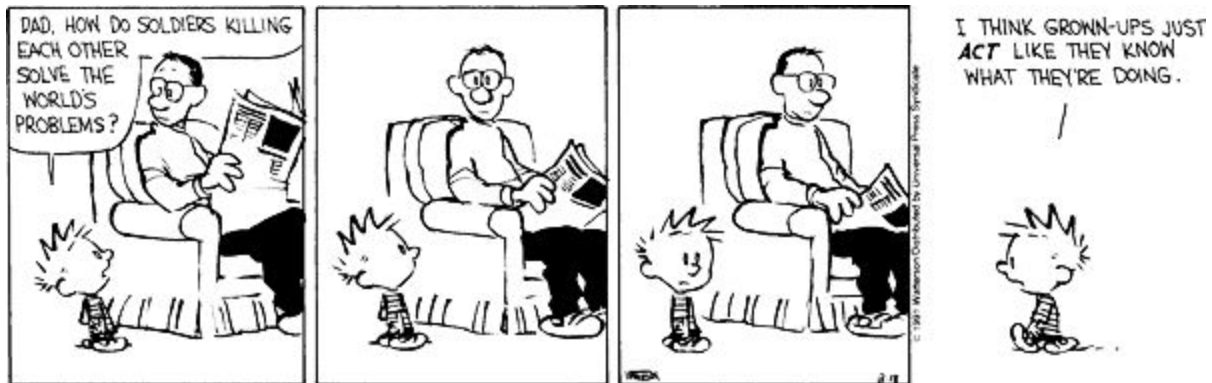# Final Project
World History
Ms. J

(Note that sometimes soldiers killing each other does solve problems, but not all problems.)

WARNING: If you don't read this whole thing, life will be harder than if you do! I know it's long; it's helpful! If you're just not going to read it all, note that if you skip anything in bold, your project is incomplete.

Hello, and welcome to your final project for World History. It may seem daunting or confusing, but you'll work it out. Try to enjoy the process; it could be fun! And if it's not, you can take satisfaction in the knowledge that it's the last wonky thing I'll ask you to do (at least this year)!

The purpose of this project is for you to use the skills and knowledge you've developed this year to apply your understanding of the way things have worked in the world to a current situation and planning. To do that, you're going to be choosing something you'd like to change about the world, research if/how it's being approached already, make your own plan, back up that plan with historical evidence for its success, and then analyze how likely that plan is to succeed.

It should be noted that the point of this project is not to find a plan that you actually walk away thinking would actually work. As you proceed, you might notice you have a plan that you felt initially confident in, but don't by the end. That's fine. Don't redo your plan every time you find yourself losing confidence. The point is to notice when/why your initial expectations don't match your analysis, not to fix it. Fixing that is a thing that takes years and may just be entirely impossible. If you try, you'll never finish the project.

Here are the details:

Step 1: **Think about something you'd like to change about the world.** It can be anything from wanting to open a store to wanting to solve world hunger, but it must be something concrete you can change and measure the results of.

Step 2: Once you've decided, **goal factor that choice on the attached "Goal Factoring" sheet**. If you forget what this is, ask me.

Step 3: **Verify that you still want to stick with that choice**. **If not, goal factor your new choice** (you can just recreate the chart on separate paper). Repeat until you've decided.

Step 4: If we haven't discussed it already, **email me** your chosen change.

Step 5: **Research the ways in which your change is already being approached in the world**. For example, if you were trying to eliminate starvation, you'd look into what companies and individuals are already trying and what they're doing. As you research, **record what you find on the "Initial Research" sheet attached**. You must provide four explanations of the methods being used already or prove to me that there aren't at least four being tried.

Step 6: **Analyze the four ways you unearthed in a couple of sentences or bullet points each on the attached "Initial Research" sheet.** Tell me what you think would work well or not work well about them and why.

Step 7: **Decide if you're satisfied with any of the existing plans**. If so (and you would change nothing), detail out that plan out on the "My Plan" sheet as described in Step 8. If you're not satisfied, come up with your own plan and detail it on the "My Plan" sheet as described in Step 8.

Step 8: **Fill out the center and left columns of the "My Plan" shee**t by listing the steps to your plan in the center column. In the left column, for each step of the plan, explain why you think that will work. You must include at least 2 historical examples (precedent) that back you up. For example, if step one of your plan is "gather smart people to think about what to do", your left column would provide at least two examples of when getting smart people together worked out well.

Step 9: **Share your sheet with me and discuss it with me** if at all possible. For most of you, this will be the end of the first week of work on your project and we'll meet before you proceed.

Step 10: **Fill in the right column of the "My Plan" sheet** to analyze the likelihood of success for your plan. To do this, gather as much data as you can about how well your step has worked in the past. Don't be biased here! Don't just look for times it worked to back you up; try to get an actual sense of its success rate.

For example, if the step is "gather the smart people" again, see if you can find any direct statistics on how often "gathering the smart people" works. If not, find as many (at least 10 examples for this project but for reality we'd be talking hundreds) examples of "gathering smart people to solve problems" happening as you can and figure out the success rate. 1/10? 5/10? 9/10? **Cite a source (or many) for your data, and put the initial probability you uncover in the box.** Then, if you find you need a boost (your results gave you 1/10 or something), **explain what you could do to up that probability**, why you think it would help (historical or statistical reasoning would be best, but at least a logical explanation) and what your predicted probability would be then.

Do that for all the steps in your plan.

Step 11: **Fill in the "Totals" row on your "My Plan" sheet**. For the left column, you're going to be explaining the summary version of the historical background that leads you to believe your overall plan will be a success. In the center column, you're going to be presenting the summary version of your plan. In the right column, you're going to be approximating the total probability by multiplying the probabilities of each step together. We'll talk about this in class.

Step 12: **Write or record your reflections on what you learned in the process of completing this project.** What surprised you? Were you frustrated? Why? What could you take away and use from this experience?

Step 13: **Turn your "My Plan" totals columns into a presentation** you can give in 3-10 minutes.

Step 14: **Record any additional sources** on the "Additional References" sheet.

Step 15: **Present your final project** on the final day of class when asked.

Step 16: **Turn in EVERYTHING** and rejoice because the class is over!! Congratulations!!

Goal Factoring

Main Goal

Sub-Goal 1

Sub-Goal 2

Sub-Goal 3

Sub-Sub-Goals
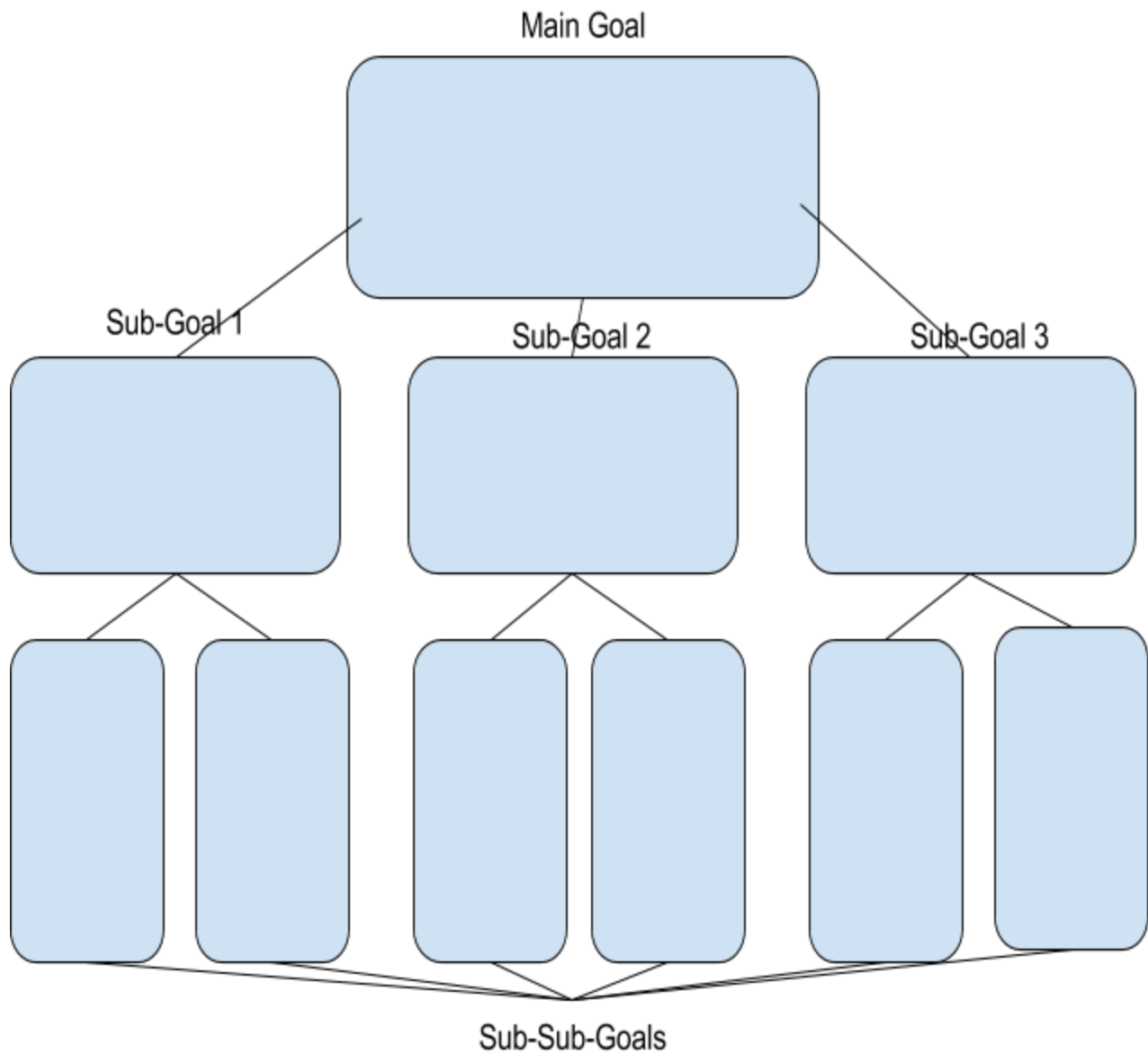
Feel free to expand/repeat on a separate piece of paper instead. You'll need to print it to use it anyway since the boxes aren't editable.

Initial Research

	Description	Analysis
Approach 1 Source:		
Approach 2 Source:		
Approach 3 Source:		
Approach 4 Source:		

My Plan

Feel free to format differently or on a different piece of paper if you prefer (must still include all of this info). This version is designed to type in so you have room. On paper, this would be icky.

Sources for Historical Backing	Historical Backing	Steps of Your Plan	Success Analysis	Sources for success analysis
	• •	1.	**Past Successes/Failures:** • • • • • • • • • • **Other reasons for ratio:** **Probability (Ratio):** _____	
	• •	2.	**Past Successes/Failures:** • • • • • • • • • • **Other reasons for ratio:** **Probability (Ratio):** _____	
	• •	3.	**Past Successes/Failures:** • • • •	

			• • • • • • **Other reasons for ratio:** **Probability (Ratio):** _____	
	• •	**4.**	**Past Successes/Failures:** • • • • • • • • • • **Other reasons for ratio:** **Probability (Ratio):** _____	
	• •	**5.**	**Past Successes/Failures:** • • • • • • • • • • **Other reasons for ratio:** **Probability (Ratio):** _____	
	• •	**6.**	**Past Successes/Failures:**	

			• • • • • • • • • • **Other reasons for ratio:** **Probability (Ratio):** ———	
	• •	7.	**Past Successes/Failures:** • • • • • • • • • • **Other reasons for ratio:** **Probability (Ratio):** ———	
	• •	8.	**Past Successes/Failures:** • • • • • • • • • • **Other reasons for ratio:** **Probability (Ratio):**	

			_____	
	• •	**9.**	**Past Successes/Failures:** • • • • • • • • • • **Other reasons for ratio:** **Probability (Ratio):** _____	
	• •	**10.**	**Past Successes/Failures:** • • • • • • • • • • **Other reasons for ratio:** **Probability (Ratio):** _____	
	• •	**11.**	**Past Successes/Failures:** • • • • • • • • •	

			• **Other reasons for ratio:** **Probability (Ratio):** _____	
	• **•**	**12.**	**Past Successes/Failures:** **•** **•** **•** **•** **•** **•** **•** **•** **•** **•** **Other reasons for ratio:** **Probability (Ratio):** _____	
	• **•**	**13.**	**Past Successes/Failures:** **•** **•** **•** **•** **•** **•** **•** **•** **•** **•** **Other reasons for ratio:** **Probability (Ratio):** _____	
	• **•**	**14.**	**Past Successes/Failures:** **•** **•** **•** **•** **•**	

			• • • • • **Other reasons for ratio:** **Probability (Ratio):** _____	

Totals:

Overall Historical Evidence Summary:	Overall Plan Summary:	Overall Probability of Success:

Reflection

Write, put a link to a recording, or email me your reflection about what you learned in the process of completing this project. Was it frustrating? When? Why? What about this process did you learn about yourself and your way of making plans? What can you use in the future? Tell me why you think I chose the comic for the picture, too.

Additional References