

Decades Project

This semester, we have been discussing American values and the ways in which they have shaped American culture. Though American values may have always been the same, American culture has not. It has been evolving and growing ever since America declared its own independence in 1776. For the final project, I would like us all to take a look at American culture by decade and see just exactly how it has changed and become what it is today.

Directions: You and your group will be assigned a decade, but you can choose one specific topic that you would like to research and present on.

Example topics:

- Who were the most influential, or important, people during that time? (ex: politicians, celebrities, businessmen, activists)
 - Who was the most influential person to writing the Constitution?
- What major events happened in or involving America? What was America's relationship to other countries at this time?
 - What major events caused the Civil War?
- What was popular during this decade? (ex: music, fashion, food, sports, recreation, entertainment, etc.)
 - Why type of music was popular in the 1920s?
- What innovations were made, or what was created/established/invented?
 - What was the influence of the invention of the Apple iPad?
- What traditions, if any, began or ended? How are holidays in that time different from today?
 - When did Santa Claus become a major part of celebrating Christmas?
- What were families like back then?
 - What were some of the family struggles during the Great Depression?
- What minorities were living in America? (You can even narrow your focus on a specific city or area)
 - What influence did Chinese minorities have in San Francisco?
- Feel free to talk about something that is not on this list. Be creative!

Group presentation will take place on Tuesday, December 24 and Friday, December 27.

Each group must present for about 10 minutes. Everyone in the group must speak and contribute to the project. Feel free to use visuals, music, videos, etc., but do not rely on these for more than 25% of your presentation.

In addition to your presentation, your group must turn in an outline on the day of containing a very short description of what each person will talk about and your references. Also include a multiple choice question for your classmates to answer.

Hint: Do not try to cover everything that happened in one decade. If you do this, it will be an information overload for your audience. Focus on one particular aspect and go in depth.

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1. Think of a topic with your group.
2. Tell the teacher your topic and get approval for it.
3. Begin researching your topic and be sure to record your references.
4. Create an outline for your presentation. Here is an example below:
 - a. Names: John, Paul, Linda, and Jack
 - b. Decade: 2000-2010
 - c. Thesis: The invention of the Apple iPad greatly influenced technology.
 - i. Reason 1: First hand held powerful computing device.
 - ii. Reason 2: Leading the trend; rest of the tech companies copied Apple.
 - iii. Reason 3: Some people have abandoned computers all together.
 - d. Conclusion: (repeat your thesis) The Apple iPad has changed the way we used technology.
5. Prepare your presentation.
6. Practice your presentation.
7. Create a multiple-choice question for your classmates to answer. Example below:
 - a. What is one of the important differences between the iPad and previous technology?
 - i. It was handheld
 - ii. It was smaller than a cell phone
 - iii. It required a keyboard
8. Print the outline, references, and grading rubric and give it to the teacher on the day of the presentations.