Olek

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Period 5: History 11

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Fall US History Research Project

Memo #1

*Write about one particular session in which you sat down to do research and hit a dead end in your process. What question were you trying to figure out and how did you overcome the challenge?*

I was trying to take notes, and I just couldn't put the pieces together in my head to write them as notes. So I moved on to a different source about the same topic and tried taking notes on that. It seemed to work for a while, but now I am at a wall again. So what do I do? I write this memo. I am a little behind in the whole process, and it have never done a research project on this scale, so staying focused is a challenge. Writing can sometimes help me get inspired, unfortunately about things that are not relevant to what I need to do at that point in time, but I already feel slightly better now. It's just so monotonous, the research process, I hate it! But I have to do it, but on my terms, at the time of writing this memo, I only have a pitiful and for me, infuriating two notecards. I don't know why I am going so slow, but from now on, every single day, I will do at least one notecards worth of notes. In this way, I can have enough notes for the research project. I am truly sorry Ryan, if I let you down, but I am trying my best right now. Sometimes I can do better than at other times, and right now I'm at the bottom of the barrel. It's so frustrating this progress, but this is all I can do right now. I think if I come back in an hour or so, I will be refreshed and ready for another notecard or two. If this is troubling to you, please let me know. I should be at school around 8:15 tomorrow morning. But, the big question. What is my thesis? Somehow, in a backwards way, I created a thesis question before notes. Something along the lines of 'how were immigrants influential in the construction of the transcontinental railroad?'. Now that I think of it, this is a great thesis topic, as I read about migrants within America and from other countries to America, who all influence the transcontinental railroad. This is a massive undertaking of a broad scope, so it may take a while, but I know what I need to look at now. Thanks Ryan!