

Generation Project

ELA/Social Studies Interdisciplinary Lesson

Lesson Objectives:

Students will:

- Create a four-generation family tree with significant family details
- Write a five-paragraph essay on immigration, demonstrating an understanding of immigration patterns, nativism, and its impact on American history.
- Research a historical figure from their selected generation and write a well-researched, structured essay highlighting that individual's major life events and contributions to history.
- Write a five-paragraph essay on a president from their chosen generation, focusing on their significant achievements, challenges, and public perception during and after their presidency.
- Write a five-paragraph essay on a historical event from their selected generation, examining its significance and impact on the past and present.
- Analyze historical artifacts and incorporate them into their work with proper captions to add context and deepen understanding of historical events.
- Synthesize historical knowledge by connecting personal, familial, and national histories, allowing them to conclude the broader context of American history during their chosen generation.
- Develop proficiency in writing structured, well-organized essays that follow a clear thesis, provide detailed evidence, and make logical connections between ideas.
- Revise their essays for clarity, grammar, and spelling, and ensure they meet the required formatting and citation standards.

Step One: Complete a four-generation family tree. This could be done in Word, Google, or some other app. It begins with you and should extend to your great-grandparents. Use text boxes, arrows, and colors to enhance your tree. Please include a graphic that symbolizes your family (a tree, a flag from a certain country, etc). Include the date of birth, death (if applicable), and maiden name.

Step Two: Write a five-paragraph essay on the topic of immigration.

1st paragraph: Introduce the topic

2nd paragraph: Focus on why immigrants came to America

3rd paragraph: Focus on how they adjusted to life in America

4th paragraph: Focus on nativism

5th paragraph: Conclude your essay, explaining this event's impact on our history.

Choose one generation to focus on for the next few steps. This would be a 25-year span.

Step Three: Write a five-paragraph essay on a historical figure from your generation.

Important: Focus your research on historical events or actions carried out by the individual.

1st Paragraph: Introduce this person to your reader. Include background information.

2nd Paragraph: Focus on this person's rise to fame or biggest claim to fame --- how was this person noticed, when did this person become famous, etc.?

3rd Paragraph: Focus on one of the significant events in this person's career during your research years.

4th Paragraph: Focus on another significant event in this person's career during the research years.

5th Paragraph: End with an update on their life after their fame (if they are deceased or out of their famed career). Or, update us on their career today (if they are still involved and living). End with the impact they made on history and why they are important. Prove why this person is a legend or important enough to be remembered today.

Step Four: Write a five-paragraph essay on a president of your chosen generation.

1st paragraph: Do not start with the year they were born. This paragraph will have a thesis statement about them as President and how they are remembered. You may cover the election of this president in this paragraph, including political experience before their presidency if important.

2nd paragraph: Focus on one major event this person had to deal with as president, or something this president is known for, or something this president accomplished or failed to accomplish. Support with relevant details.

3rd paragraph: Focus on a second major event, accomplishment, failure, monumental challenge, etc., of his presidency. Support with relevant details.

4th paragraph: Focus on a third major event, accomplishment, failure, monumental challenge, etc., of his presidency. Support with relevant details.

5th paragraph: How did the public perceive this president while in office? How is he remembered? Cover his funeral and death if he is not alive anymore. If he is still alive, cover what he did after he left office.

Step Five: Write a five-paragraph essay on a historical event from your chosen generation.

1st Paragraph: Introduce the event to your reader. Include background information and a thesis statement about this historical event.

2nd Paragraph: Focus on one main point about this historical event.

3rd Paragraph: Focus on a second main point about this historical event.

4th Paragraph: Focus on a third main point about this historical event.

5th Paragraph: Conclude your essay explaining this event's impact on history (yesteryear and possibly today) and/or why it is important in American history.

General Information

Each topical essay AND family tree should include 2-3 historical artifacts. These include photos, primary documents, letters, maps, tables and charts, political cartoons, documents, headlines, newspaper clippings, etc. Captions should accompany all historical artifacts.

+ Research events you are interested in or want to learn more about. There are historical events in every field, like music and sports. History is not just politics and wars.

+ Choose specific events within your research window. Don't choose something too big to cover in 5 paragraphs (WWI). Don't choose something so obscure or trivial that you won't find enough information.

+ Each essay will be five paragraphs long, with a minimum of 5-7 sentences per paragraph. Be sure to thoroughly cover the W's (who, what, when, where, why, or how) of each event. Each essay must be typed in 1.5-line spacing and on one page (change the margins, font, or text size if needed). Please check spelling and grammar!

+ Be creative in the design of your project. Add color, cutouts, stencils, and drawings to bring your research to life.

Create a cover for your project.

Cite all sources used in MLA format (easy-bib.com)

You will be graded on completing all pieces, content, spelling/grammar, neatness, and participation.

Instructions for your book/binder

Your cover should have a title and a graphic!

Your inside title page should include your name and your generation.

Your first page should be your family tree. The opposite page should be your artifacts.

The rest of the book should follow this pattern: paper, then artifacts.

Your last page should be your citations.

Sample Rubric

Name:

Tree	/10
Artifacts	/10
Mechanics	/5
Cover	/5
Sources	/10
Essay 1	/10
Essay 2	/10
Essay 3	/10
Essay 4	/10
Participation	/20
Total	/100