

# American History Semester Project

Due on the second-to-the-last day of the semester!

For this project, each student has two main choices of what to do. You do not need to do both, but you *can* do both for extra credit. I recommend doing both, if you can! :-D

## Option One - Grandparent Interview

Have a grandparent answer a list of questions regarding their lives.

I give you a list of questions to ask your grandparent and you get the answers from them! It's that simple! You can adapt the questions if necessary; depending on the age of your grandparents, some questions may not fit their experiences. So use the questions that are relevant and skip what doesn't fit! There are few rules regarding this assignment!

To do the interviewing itself, you can:

- Do a personal face-to-face interview *or*
- Send them the questions as a *questionnaire* for them to fill out by hand *or*
- Send them the questions by email so they can type their answers directly into your document

However you get the answers is fine, but you must type in their responses and submit the project with both questions and answers to create a **booklet** about your grandparent! For a fun alternative, you could create a **PowerPoint**!

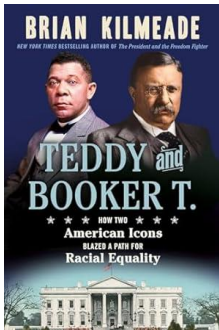
You are encouraged to add pictures too, like the samples shown in class!

With this project, my hope is for you to learn about the last seven or eight decades from an "eyewitness"! AND I would love for you to have this project as personal keepsake about your grandparent!



# Option Two – Book Report

Read one of the books about American History listed on the course website and write a report or essay on the book. 😊



**Step One:** First, read this project guide.

**Step Two:** Read the book you have chosen! While reading, take notes! *Include page numbers when taking notes so you can easily find the information later when writing your paper.*

**Step Three:** Write a Book Report of **at least 5 paragraphs**. Describe the events and people in the book and their importance. [Remember that students who only do the minimum required are average. An average grade is a C. Plan accordingly.]

*Here is a suggestion of how to organize your paper:*

**Introductory Paragraph** – Write an INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH using techniques you have learned in writing classes. Include some background or big picture ideas and “funnel” to the specific. End the introduction with a **thesis statement** such as – “Frederick Douglass promoted liberty for all and helped America to achieve the ideals of the Declaration of Independence” ... OR “The relationship between Theodore Roosevelt and Booker T. Washington had a positive impact on healing racial tensions.” ... OR whatever point you want to make about the specific book you choose!

## BODY PARAGRAPHS

**Body Paragraphs 1-7 or so** – Summarize the main points of the book in *at least* three paragraphs. Make sure each paragraph has a topic that supports your thesis. Organize the structure of your paper according to what you have learned in writing classes.

Your Body Paragraphs could address the following topics:

- What events is the book describing? What are the troubles/problems involved?
- Who are the people involved? What are their roles?
- Why did the people do the things they did? What motivated them?
- What is the legacy of these events and these people? What can people in our time learn from them? What lessons have they given the world? How can modern Americans be better because of what happened?
- Use examples from the book to support your points. If you already know how to do so, you can include in-text citations. [To do this, include page numbers from the book to indicate where you found the information you are including in your paper.]

**Concluding Paragraph** – Write a CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH that wraps up your paper eloquently. Use techniques you have learned in writing classes to craft an excellent conclusion. You could summarize your main points and reflect on the impact of the people and events involved. How is our world forever changed because of these events and people?

**Above all – ENJOY THE BOOK!!!!**

**If these suggestions are too complicated, just write a summary of the book!**

