**The Turn of the Century**

**Performance Project**

You will draw one of the following topics for your performance project.

**WWI**

**The Roaring 20’s**

**The Great Depression**

**The New Deal**

This assignment is an individual assignment and will not be completed as a group.

Performances will be presented in class on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (half the class will go on one day and the other will go on the second day)

For this project you will draw one of the four topics. You will research all about it and then create a character that will tell about your experience in that time period.

* For example you may have chosen WWI and researched about trench warfare. You would become a soldier that tells about his experience living in the trenches. What was it like. How did you feel. How did the war go. Where were you? What did you experience. (don’t make it up….research what really happened to actual soldiers)
* If you picked the Roaring 20’s become a “flapper” what are your life views. What do others think about you. What is it like living in the 1920’s?
* If you choose The Great Depression maybe you are a mother that has children living in a Hoover Ville and your husband left to find work and you are trying to feed your family. Maybe you are one of the people living in the dustbowl or one of the Oakies that moves to California. You may be a hobo that jumps trains in search of work.
* If you choose the New Deal you may be working on building campgrounds in the mountains or you may be a violinist in the Utah Symphony. Tell about the president and his plan to get us out of the depression by creating government jobs. How does it make you feel to have a job and to be useful?

When creating your character please please please base it on research or you will be docked big time. These performances are like monologs – it’s like a speech that you give talking about you and your life and your experiences and views about things that are happening. It’s not jumping up and down or getting stabbed or shot or dying on stage or anything super dramatic acting. It is using words to convey a story and a feeling of what people experienced in the past. **Get your audience to connect with your character and understand their life and the time period they lived in.**

**What do I need to do to prepare?**

* Research your topic- put all sources with annotations on NoodleTools and share the inbox with Utah History 2016-2017
  + Three websites
  + One book
  + One journal
  + Five pictures
* Write a thesis statement that relates to the theme of “The individual in History”
* Create an outline with supporting evidence for your thesis (you will turn this in)
* Write a script based on your outline (you will turn this in on the day of your performance)
* Memorize your script
* Get a costume (it can be as simple as a jacket or a hat or a shawl… just needs to represent your character)
* Practice your performance in front of your family and friends at least 20 times **after** you have it memorized. Ask them for feedback on how to make it better and improve each time.
* Be ready to present to the class. Everyone needs to be ready on the first day.

**How will I be graded?**

* Outline and Script turned in (25 points)
* Research is accurate and thorough (turn in on NoodleTools) (25 points)
* Performance is memorized (20 points)
* You have a costume that represents your character well (15 points)
* Your performance is engaging and has emotion (not monotone and boring) (15 points)

This Project is worth 100 points total

**What is a Historical Performance?**

A performance is a live, dramatic presentation of your topic's significance in history. You may perform individually or as part of a group. A performance should be a scripted portrayal based on research of your chosen topic. Your script should be structured on a thesis statement, supporting statements, and a conclusion.  Your performance should have dramatic appeal, but not at the expense of historical information.

**How is a Performance Different from Other Categories?**

The [performance category](http://www.nhd.org/images/uploads/perfrules.pdf) is the only one that is presented live. Developing a strong narrative that allows your subject to unfold in a dramatic and visually interesting way is important. Memorizing, rehearsing, and refining your script is essential, so you should schedule time for this in addition to research, writing, costuming and prop gathering.

**Getting Started**

* Decide whether the chosen topic will be most effective as a group or as an individual performance.
* *Research the topic first.* Write down important facts or quotes that may be important to the performance. Write a thesis statement, supporting statements and a conclusion. Think about how these might become part of your performance.
* *Prepare a script.* Brainstorm with general ideas and how they might be presented.  If a group is performing, each member should describe different ways in which characters might interact.   
  -Make sure your script contains references to the historical evidence found in your research.   
  -Using actual dialogue, quotations, or brief excerpts from speeches are good ways to put historical detail into your performance.   
  -Remember that your script should center on the thesis statement, supporting statements, and the conclusion that you developed from your research.
* *Prepare the set.*Think about different types of sets that might help depict your topic. Is there a prop that is central to the story?
* *Prepare the blocking.* To "block" a performance is to determine where the actors will stand, move, and/or relate to the set. You should think about these movements when deciding what type of set to design.
* *Prepare the costuming.*Good costumes help make a performer convincing, but make sure they are appropriate to the topic. You do not need to purchase or make an elaborate costume - sometimes simple works best (e.g. white shirt and dark pants/skirt can fit almost any time period).
* *Practice, practice, practice!* Work on speaking clearly, pronouncing all words correctly, and projecting your voice so that the judges and the audience can hear every word. Rehearse with the set and full costumes as often as possible

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