

World History B – Quarter 4 Writing Assignment

Point Value: 30 points

Due Date: May 29, 2015

Description:

You will be writing a letter, based on something we've studied in the past few units in History. You will pick one of the choices below to write your letter about. **Your letter must be at least one page long (double spaced).**

Be mindful of the time period you are writing in – you will be pretending you live in the early 1900s for any of these letters. Your letter should have examples of things you learned about from your textbook and/or class and it should show that you understand what was happening in History during the early 1900s.

You should write in a basic "letter" format that includes a date, greeting, body, and closing (see example at the end).

Choices for your letter (choose one):

1. Letter from an Immigrant

- **Prompt:** You just arrived in New York in the early 1900s as an immigrant from Europe. Write a letter to a family member in your native country telling them what you have experienced and how different New York is from your home.

➤ **Brainstorming ideas:**

- How was the boat trip to America?
- What port did you sail into?
- What does New York look like?
- How does it compare to where you came from?
- Do you have a job yet? If so, what is it like?

2. Letter from a Factory Worker

- **Prompt:** You are a worker at the Triangle Shirt Waste Factory, who escaped the infamous fire. Write a letter to a family member back home about your experience during the factory fire.

➤ **Brainstorming ideas:**

- What time was it?
- How did the fire start?
- What was the result of the fire?
- Where there any issues getting out of the fire escapes?
- How did you feel?
- You can also include some details of what it was like to work in the factory before the day of the fire.

3. Letter from the State Fair

- **Prompt:** It's your first time at a State Fair in the early 1900s. Write a letter to a friend about your experiences at the fair.
 - **Brainstorming ideas:**
 - What kind of entertainment did they have?
 - Where was the fair?
 - What did people eat?
 - How did people dress?
 - What were your impressions of the fair?
 - Would you want to go back again? Why or why not?

4. Letter Reviewing a New Product

- **Prompt:** You are a customer who gets to write reviews for all of the cool new things of the early 1900s. Write a letter to the newspaper reviewing one of the following new inventions of the early 1900s:
 - Ferris wheel
 - Nickelodeon
 - Dime novels
 - Washing machine
 - Department stores
 - Baseball games
- **Brainstorming ideas:**
 - How does it work? Describe the product/invention.
 - What is your opinion of it?
 - How has it impacted your life?
 - How has it changed life for people in the early 1900s?
 - Has it made life better or worse? Why?

Things to Remember:

- You are writing your letter as if you were living in the early 1900s – not 2015.
- Your letter should show an understanding of Historical events learned from the curriculum.
- Your letter should be in a basic letter format and a minimum of one page long – double spaced.
- Send your letter to me in the Sapphire dropbox, or you may send through kmail.
- **Your letter must be written completely in your own words. Incidents involving plagiarism are serious offenses that warrant immediate administrative attention.**

Example of a basic letter format:

October 1, 1911 [Date]

Dear Grandma, [Greeting]

..... [Body of letter]

Sincerely, [Closing]

Jane