

PSO US HISTORY

DECADES IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Name: _____

AMERICAN DECADES VIDEO PROJECT

For this final project of the year, you will be working in a group to produce a video montage/documentary highlighting key aspects of a decade in American history – from the 1920s to the 2000s. While there will be certain aspects of history (and even specific people/events/etc.) that you must include, you should unleash your creativity with this project! This project should provide the audience with an overall idea of what happened during that decade, and what it would be like to live during that time period. Ideally, your videos should run about 7-10 minutes to cover everything.

Aspects of History – Each project should include information on the following:

1. Fashion/Clothing/Hairstyles (for both men and women)
2. Music
3. Entertainment/Recreation/Leisure (what people do for fun)
4. Values (what was really important to people)
5. Politics
6. Economy
7. Inventions/Technology



Decades and Required Elements – Each project must include information on the following decade-specific topics:

<p>1950s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Middle Way politics (Eisenhower) • The Hydrogen Bomb • Suburbanization & Levittown • The Baby Boom/Nuclear Family • The Interstate Highway System • Rock and Roll/Elvis Presley • Khrushchev/Kitchen Debates • Television! • The Korean War • Brown v. Board of Education, Little Rock 9 	<p>1960s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections of 1960 and 1968 • Assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr., JFK, Robert Kennedy, and Malcolm X. • March on Washington • Space Race (Man on the Moon) • Bay of Pigs and Cuban Missile Crisis • Berlin Wall • War on Poverty, Medicare, Medicaid • Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, and Lyndon Johnson • Anti-war protests/Hippies 	<p>1970s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watergate scandal & Richard Nixon • OPEC – oil embargo, Helsinki Accords • Iran Hostage Crisis & Jimmy Carter • Detente • Stagflation • Pentagon Papers • Vietnamization • Gulf of Tonkin Resolution • War Powers Act • Camp David Accords
<p>1980s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenger Space Shuttle disaster • “Supply-Side Economics” AKA “Reaganomics”/“Trickle-Down Economics” • SDI & Ronald Reagan • START I and START II • Immigration Laws • HIV/AIDS • 1980 Olympics • Berlin Wall speech (Reagan) • Iran-Contra Affair 	<p>1990s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collapse of the USSR • Persian Gulf War – Operation Desert Storm • Oklahoma City Bombing • Clinton Impeachment scandal • Newt Gingrich, Contract with America • NAFTA • The Internet Revolution • Bosnia, Kosovo, and Haiti • Columbine Shootings 	<p>2000s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of 2000, George W. Bush • 9/11 Terror Attacks • Wars in Afghanistan & Iraq • USA Patriot Act, Department of Homeland Security • 2008 Housing Crisis, Bank bailouts (TARP) • Election of 2008, Barack Hussein Obama • Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”) • The Tea Party (politics)

Style/Format of the Video

This is all up to you! You may always opt for a more traditional documentary-style video, with narration, images, video segments, and/or informational text, or incorporate your acting skills to simulate or re-enact certain events. A newscast is a great way to cover key events – especially considering that Windows Movie Maker includes a number of graphic/text overlays that enhance this technique. Music montages are a great way to incorporate lots of elements, using period music to accompany images/clips of fashion, dance, and other cultural elements or even historical events.

Logistical Tips

1. You will be given a significant amount of class time to work on this project, including computer access via the lab. **Designate a flash drive with a decent amount of space (at least 4GB) to leave at school with Mr. Peyton, and return to him after each day's work.** Keep all of the bits and pieces for your video on that flash drive. This includes audio files, video clips, images, etc.
2. Plan ahead! Brainstorm how you want to present the information, then research and gather together the pieces you will need. The best videos are put together in your head before they are assembled on the computer.
3. Not sure if you will be able to do something? Ask Mr. Peyton! He can help you find and download lots of different elements, including YouTube videos and images, and edit it together.
4. Refer to the list of required elements for your specific decade, as well as making sure you cover the key aspects of history that apply to every decade. Make a checklist. Also, keep the rubric (below) in mind as you begin to piece your video together. It is how you will be graded, after all!

Pro-Tips

Smart phones make great video capture devices that can easily connect to the computer to upload footage, if you follow these guidelines:

- Never film with your phone vertically. This produces a tall, skinny picture instead of a nice, widescreen picture.



- Speak up! Most smart phones don't have very good audio pickup at distances, so be sure you are heard if you are acting.
- There are apps available that allow you to insert special effects, like explosions!

U.S. DECADES PROJECT RUBRIC	"A"	"B"	"C"	"D" or less
CONTENT	Covers all of the decade-specific topics, as well as the general aspects of history comprehensively. 35 – 33	Covers nearly all of the decade-specific topics, as well as most of the general aspects of history. 32 – 30	Mentions most of the decade-specific topics and general aspects of history, but lacks context/clarity. 29 – 26	Does not cover or even mention several of the decade-specific topics and/or general aspects of history. 25 or less
QUALITY	Video flows well, with refined editing that ties content together and presents a creative and impactful overview of the decade. 15 – 14.5	Content is presented in a sensible/logical way. Editing is fairly solid, with few disruptions in flow and/or presentation. 14 – 13	Content presentation and flow is basic, with limited creativity. Basic editing allows for several disruptions in sound, timing, & visual. 12.5 – 11	Content is haphazardly assembled with crude editing, demonstrating a lack of effort. Presentation is confusing/disjointed. 10.5 or less
Comments:				TOTAL SCORE: _____
				50