Second World War Research Assignment: Presentation and Extended Essay

*Over the course of this unit, you will identify a specific topic of study related to the Second World War and then conduct in-depth research with the goal of becoming a class expert on your chosen subject. You will then communicate your findings in a short presentation to your peers and by crafting an extended essay*.

**Purpose**:

* To practice forming our own research question from a prescribed topic
* To improve our research and source evaluation skills
* To produce a high-quality academic paper
* To further our own understanding of the Second World War by pursuing a depth of knowledge

**Process**:

1. *Choose a general topic*

Choose a topic from the Prescribed Topics list provided and record it on your planning sheet. You will receive photocopies of the relevant sources soon afterward to begin your study. You may also choose your own topic, but you must seek my approval. This might also mean that you won’t be provided with any source material.

1. *Form a specific interest & develop a line of inquiry*

Practice writing inquiry questions on your planning sheet. Ultimately, you will form specific research questions that will help guide your paper. Special consideration needs to be taken with regards to research possibilities (ie., choosing a topic that has very little relevant published literature)

1. *In-depth research*

After Christmas break, be prepared to report out on your research thus far. This is the point where I will help guide your research if you are having difficulties. We will also consider how to evaluate source material and how to spot if we’ve cherry-picked select evidence from a larger academic debate.

1. *Crafting a final inquiry question*

You need to have the final draft of your inquiry question recorded.

1. *Short in-class Presentation*

Deliver a 3 – 5 minute powerpoint presentation on your inquiry question and research thus far. This is meant to update your classmates on your progress as well as to share your knowledge with them (as the class expert, you will ‘teach’ them). This presentation should include your preliminary conclusions (your thesis) but should also address what you still need to do.

1. *Submit Draft Paper*

Your 1500 word (minimum) paper is due, complete with bibliography and citations. Please follow all formatting guidelines.

1. *Revision*

Consider peer and teacher feedback and revise grammar and ideas of your draft.

1. *Submit Final Copy of Paper*

Breathe. Sleep. Cry. High Five Weichel!

**Requirements**:

* Essay: 1500 words (minimum), double-spaced, size 12 font, MLA citation style, cover page included
* Sources: You must use a minimum of four sources.
  + A minimum of two of those need to be from your own research. Ex. You can have five sources, with only two from your own research and three provided by me, but you cannot have five sources where four came from me.