My *American Story*

Thursday 8/27: To begin our history course, we are going to practice being historians! To begin this process, we are going to conduct a history project of our personal and family history. This project will include a timeline of your personal life from your earliest memories to tenth grade, a family tree, and a story of your family’s history. Before you leave class today, you will have written out five interview questions to ask a relative about your family’s history.

Due: Five Interview Questions

Friday 8/28: In class we will be writing out our personal timeline. This time line can be constructed from whatever materials possible and can include pictures, illustrations, and personal stories. Paper, markers, glue, and tape will be made available to you. \*Keep these in a safe place\*

Saturday/Sunday 8/29-30: Over the weekend, collect other pieces of information about your family. **Create a family tree of your immediate family that includes names of your relatives** and a picture or an illustration. Other information on the tree can include birth dates or immigration dates, and how this person is related to you. The family tree will be due on Wednesday 9/2. You may create this any way you wish: piece of paper, poster board, etc. (please do not create it on the computer) Be CREATIVE!

Due: Wednesday 9/2

Monday/Tuesday 8/31-9/1: We will spend 20 minutes **in class** both of these days writing your *American Story*. **This story will be about your family’s history using the information you collected from your interviews and other sources**. It can begin with your family immigrating to the US (if you know this history) or when you were born. Every person has a different history so please, share some facet of your history. These stories will be collected and put in a class history binder. IF forty minutes is not enough for your *American Story*, you may take it home to work on it. If you have a native language other than English, feel free to write your story in that language with a translation in English.

Due: Wednesday 9/2

Friday 9/4: Project Presentations!

\*The purpose of this project is to see how your family’s history compares to the history we have been learning in class.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| RUBRIC | 10 | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| Five Interview Questions |  |  |  |  |
| Family Tree |  |  |  |  |
| *American Story* |  |  |  |  |
| Timeline |  |  |  |  |
| Totals |  |  |  |  |

**Alternative Assignment:**

Sometimes family history is hard to get a hold of…

If this is the case, you may conduct your project on another family that has been approved by Mrs. Stephens or Miss Williams. You will need to complete the same assignment, you are just using another person’s history. Please pick a person and their family where you can research their immigrant history.

**Some personal/family suggestions:**

The Kennedys

Harriet Tubman

The Rockefellers

The Roosevelts

Albert Einstein

Irving Berlin

Arnold Schwarzenegger

\*For the interview, you will write out five questions and interview a willing participant about their history.