

If you are unclear about **any** aspect of this assignment, contact your lead instructor immediately.

Assignment Description for Teaching American History Grant Immigration/Collaborative Biographies

Assignment: Historical Fiction Chapter Book

Due Date: Friday, January 8, 2010 (no later than 11:59 PM PST)

Submission Instructions: Place your story in your scholar's folder in the InterAct Immigration folder. Include a single file with a .doc extension. In the subject header, include the last names of each of your group members.

Assignment Purpose

This assignment requires you to write a historical fiction chapter book appropriate for readers in third, fourth, and fifth grades. The purposes of the assignment include:

- experiencing the writing process and cooperative learning strategies using the same methods you expect of your students,
- identifying elements of historical fiction that can be highlighted while teaching history, and
- telling a story of at least one fictional character from the height of the U.S. immigration era (1880-1920).

Upon completion of this assignment, you should feel confident in your ability to work cooperatively with your peers in a fashion that you can transfer to your students, and you should be intensely knowledgeable about details relating to the module era.

General Requirements

Length: The body of your completed book must be at least 3,000 words per group member; therefore, a book by a group of three would be at least 9,000 words, a group of four would be at least 12,000 words, and a group of five would have at least 15,000 words.

Formatting: Once you complete the editing process, re-format your book to be 12-point, serif font (Times or Times New Roman), single-spaced with 1" margins on all sides. Start each chapter on a new page using "Insert Page Break" and include page numbers. You may place the page numbers on the right or left bottom corner or use "Outside" alignment so they switch back-and-forth by page.

Front/Back Pages: At the beginning of your book, place a digitally-designed book cover including a picture, the book title, and all author names. Following the book cover, include a title page with the title, author names, and copyright date. Feel free to make the title page two-pages long if you would like it to replicate a true cover page. You may include other front pages such as a dedication, acknowledgements, plain piece of white paper, or second title page if you feel these would add to the authenticity of your book. You may also add fictitious information such as the name of the publisher. Following the text of your story, include a biography page and a bibliography page. On the biography page, each author will write a brief autobiography. In the autobiographies, include a description of the primary activities that author did in the creation of the book (e.g., Mrs. Carter was responsible for writing Chapter 3 and editing Chapters 1-5. She also designed the front cover—later electronically prepared by Mrs. Walford"). Include citations to all quotations and resources referenced on your bibliography page.

Collaboration: You must work collaboratively on this project with all group members participating in each of the following project components: research, book outline, writing, editing, choosing a cover design, and publishing.

Historical Fiction Chapter Book Grading Rubric

Author Names: _____

NOTE: Books not meeting length and collaboration expectations will be returned to the authors.

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
Level of Historical Detail and Accuracy	Many historical details enhancing the story; All details accurate; Fictional details reflective of the historical era; Displays clear understanding of the context of the story setting; Plot parallels that of individuals from the era; Demonstrates use of research using primary sources; Integrates primary sources	Adequate number of historical details for contextually setting the story; Accurate details; Lacks integration of primary sources, appears research was completed using only secondary sources; Fictional details fail to properly represent the historical era	Few historical details; Includes false historical details; Shows no research using primary sources nor integration of primary sources into text; Inadequate understanding of the historical era	/15
Front/Back Pages and Cover	Front cover was digitally-created and includes title and author names; Front cover is creative and reflects book content; Title page includes title, author names, and copyright date; Biography page includes biographies for each author; Bibliography page is complete; Overall look of book is professional	Missing one required element OR Front cover lacks a relationship to the story; Front cover lacks creativity and digital manipulation; Lacks appearance of a professional book	Missing more than one required element	/5
Formatting	Use of 12-point serif font; Includes 1" margins on all sides; Chapters start on new pages; Includes properly placed page numbers	Missing one required element	Missing more than one required element	/5
Idea Development	Insightful; Events unfold naturally; Overall effect fresh, original, unique; Specific and focused with clear purpose	Main idea reasonably clear; Familiar conclusions; Lacks insight; Limited use of details; Ordinary thinking; Promising, but without delivery; Strengths balance weaknesses; Limited commitment to topic	Sketchy details; Limited material; Random thoughts; Impersonal; No shape or form; Writer does not seem to know enough about the topic	/10
Organization	Focused; Balanced; Logical development; Hooks and holds the reader	Predictable; Uses a set formula; Order makes sense most of the time; Strengths balance weaknesses; Focus is sketchy	Confusing; Stumbling over vital information; No shape or form; Mistakes distract from understanding meaning	/10
Voice	Expressive vocabulary; Reveals personalities of characters; Natural and uninhibited; Evokes strong personal response	Avoids risks; Leaves reader hungry for details; Pleasant, but cautious; Earnest, but routine; Strengths balance weaknesses; Clichés and fresh insights mixed together; Timidity	Simplistic or inappropriate vocabulary; Indifferent; Bland, flat, unexciting; Lacks enthusiasm so reader is not involved; Monotonous	/10
Conventions	Polished, professional product; Writer manipulates conventions for style; Dares to be different; Smooth, error-free conventions	Adequate, but simplistic construction; Writing inconsistencies; Moderate editing required; Convention problems do not distort meaning	Errors distract reader; Extensive editing needed; Minimal content; Incomplete thoughts; Inconsistent use of conventions	/5
Total				/60