**Be a Historian – Written Summary + Bibliography**

In conjunction with your overall project, you must write a 400 to 500 word summary of your historical research and explanation of your project. This summary should follow the structure described below:

* Introduction Paragraph, that includes
	+ Overall historical context explanation of project topic and timeframe
	+ Summary and organization of historical arguments drawn from the project
	+ Historically defensible and analytical claim to answer your primary research question
* Summary Explanation of your Project
	+ Describe the overall goals of, historical research used, and connections between the ideas expressed in your project.
	+ Explain how the project reflects and represents your academic research

Your bibliography, or works cited page, must follow a commonly accepted format such as MLA, Chicago, or APA. Be consistent and organized in your formatting. For more information on MLA use the following link.

* <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/>

Note: Some projects, based on style or type of presentation include the above information within the project itself. If this is the case you do not need to submit two written summaries. See me to discuss the particulars of your project if you have questions.

A sample written summary and bibliography is included below.

Brian Tickler (SAMPLE)

AP World History: Be A Historian Final Project

***Primary Research Question:*** *To what extent is the description of John F. Kennedy as both an “artist and an American” an accurate portrayal of the president?*

**John F. Kennedy: The Artist and the American**

**An Anthology of Primary Sources for High School Students**

Speaking at Amherst College on October 1963, to help dedicate the “Robert Frost Library,” then president John F. Kennedy invoked the image of the late poet as both an “Artist and an American,” claiming that heroes need not simply be men of great strength or accomplishment but rather that  “contributions to [the nation’s} spirit [and] insight” were “indispensable contribution[s] to the Nation’s greatness.” In doing so, President Kennedy envisioned himself as an “artist” whose “spirit” and “truth” would overcome, what historian Robert Dallek claimed were, the “limitations and frustrations” faced by all presidents in order to “endure [the] gap between what he would like and what is possible.” The idea of an artist is synonymous with a designer, creator, or producer. In his political career John F. Kennedy designed an image and message of heroism, intellectualism, and idealism that created a personal connection between him and the country, ultimately producing an inspirational spirit that the United States could “bear the long twilight struggle…against the common enemies of man.”

The tragedy of Kennedy’s assassination in Dallas in November 1963 created one of those most interesting “what ifs” in American history. His presidency lasted just over a thousand days and despite his failures, shortcomings, or unfinished goals his connection to the American public is unrivaled. Responding to the assassination of President Kennedy in November 1963, CBS commentator Eric Sevareid noted the principle legacy of Kennedy might well be an ‘attitude,’ a contagious spirit that all things are possible if only we have the vision and the will. In undelivered remarks scheduled for the afternoon of November 22 Kennedy summed up an idealistic American leadership style “guided by the lights of learning and reason” and his fear that “those who confuse rhetoric with reality and the plausible with the possible will gain the popular ascendancy with the seemingly swift and simple solutions to every problem.” Kennedy’s timeless message is still needed today and as an artist and American, Kennedy’s life is an example of what American realist Edward Hopper defined, as “the outward expression of an inner life in the artist, and this inner life will result in his personal vision of the world.” Kennedy’s idealist vision for the world captured the spirit of Americans not only during his lifetime but endures today.

This website and the organization of its content was created by Brian Tickler for Gilder Lehrman Institute's Online Course - The Kennedy Presidency. Course participants were challenged to create an original anthology - an exercise in historical imagination - of primary sources from John F. Kennedy.

The background picture for the website was taken on March 8, 1960 in Tomah, Wisconsin. At the time Senator John F. Kennedy was in the midst of the Democratic Primaries. The woman on the right is my grandmother, Margaret Tickler. Grandma T, as she is known to me, grew up a devout Catholic in rural Wisconsin. She was a passionate Green Bay Packers fan, an incredible baker of English toffee and homemade donuts, and a skilled free throw shooter (she once won a contest against boys from the area). More importantly Grandma T was one of the most loving and caring people I have known. While I have many memories, pictures, and mementos of her, this picture is one of extreme significance in that as a history teacher I have a direct connection to this moment in time. While Kennedy made countless stops like this in his short political career, the impact he had on an individual like my grandmother demonstrates the spirit that Kennedy passed on to so many Americans. This project is dedicated to her love, passion, and beautiful heart.

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