



World History 2 Summer Assignment: Porter-Gaud History Article and Broadcast

Former co-owner, publisher, and writer of *The Washington Post*, Philip Graham, said that, “journalism is the first draft of history”. As historians, we cannot look past the role of the media in painting how the public responds to events of the past and present. Newspaper, radio, and television coverage of historic events heavily influence the initial response to important events. Today, we view these primary sources as integral to analyzing history. In this project, you will be reading a historical fiction book selected from the approved reading list, writing a newspaper article of a historic event in the book, and creating a news broadcast covering the book or events of the book. The details of this assignment are further explained below.

Instructions:

1. Select ONE book from the approved list below. This list includes authors of color and stories from all over the world. Perhaps read up on a few of them before selecting one!
 - a. *Nowhere in Africa* by Stefanie Zweig; ISBN: 0299199649
 - b. *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe; ISBN: 0307743853
 - c. *In the Time of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez; ISBN: 1616200995
 - d. *Forgotten Fire* by Adam Bagdasarian; ISBN: 1439548927
 - e. *Keeping Corner* by Kashmira Sheth; ISBN: 1442019816
 - f. *Butterfly Yellow* by Thanh Hà Lai; ISBN: 0062229230
 - g. *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* by Sijie Dai ;ISBN:009949082X
 - h. *Heart of a Samurai* by Margi Preus; ISBN: 1419702009
 - i. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak; ISBN: 0375842209

2. Read your selected book and answer the following questions while reading to help with your project. *These will not be turned in, but will be helpful when writing your newspaper article or filming your news segment.*
 - a. Where is my author from?
 - b. How can the author’s background influence this story?
 - c. When does this book take place?
 - d. Where does this book take place?
 - e. What major events happen in this book?
 - f. Who are the main characters of the book?

3. Write a newspaper article about a major **HISTORIC** event in the book. You are creating a primary source! You may take some creative liberty; however, be sure to cover an event that actually happened in real life that the author of your book has incorporated into the narrative. **You must verify the event with support from an additional, reliable resource that you cite with a [Chicago footnote citation](#).** Your newspaper article should meet the following requirements:

- a. 500-800 words
 - b. Year and location of the event
 - c. A summary of the event(s)
 - d. A catchy title
 - e. An author (this can be you or someone from that time period)
 - f. Interview of a character from the book as a witness. Give a reasonable account or take quotes from what they've stated in the book.
4. Create a film as a news reporter or anchor. Again, you may take creative liberty in terms of presenting this as a historic event OR simply report on what happened as if it were happening right now. Please read some important guidelines below.
- a. Your video should be between 3-5 minutes long. If it goes over by a little, that is acceptable.
 - b. You should introduce yourself and act as if you are a professional reporter of the news.
 - c. Explain where in the world you are covering the event. Provide a map and show where the event is-- geography matters!
 - d. Cover the events. Give context! You may report on the "situation" in the book, perhaps covering a Communist ruler coming to power or books being burned by government leaders. This will be dependent on which book you select. Be creative and really try to capture an event that took place in your book. You may choose whether or not you want to incorporate the book's characters.
 - e. Refrain from having anyone "play victim" or represent a minority group. There are many ways to cover these events by being culturally respectful and sensitive to the experiences of others. If you are uncertain about this point, please feel free to ask Ms. Swiger (aswiger@portergaud.edu) or Mr. Baran (pbaran@portergaud.edu). It is better to ask now than have to explain later!
 - f. Please see these students' examples as a reference. Editing is extra, not required. **Content comes first!** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loMnEIJx06k>

Due Dates:

You must read the book, write the article and submit the broadcast video by the **first block day of classes:**

Newspaper Article: First Block Day of the year. Please upload to the Google drive folder or Google Classroom organized by your teacher.

Broadcasting video: First Block Day of the year. Please upload to the Google drive folder organized by your teacher.

Writing assessment on themes from the book: Conducted in class when school resumes per each teacher's schedule, most likely the second week of school.