**Social Studies and Science – Final Project**

Greetings, historians and informed predictors of the future! We have done a lot of different kinds of work over the course of the year, looking at various aspects of civilizations and the factors that contribute to a civilization’s rise and fall. Think about:

* medieval Wales research and presentations
* the re-building civilization group work challenge
* *Civ V* – research into leaders; cause and effect of major and minor actions; the challenges of balancing all aspects of an emerging and developing civilization
* research into your chosen ancient civilization
* curricular competencies explored in planning your game
* interconnectivity in forest systems
* tree-human connections
* First Peoples’ perspectives on biodiversity

This term, we will also add three more pools of knowledge to draw from:

* Lit Circles
* current events
* impacts of climate change

You all also each come to this with knowledge from past years of schooling and expertise in areas of your passions. Don’t be shy about drawing on those knowledge bases to help delve deep into this exploration.

Over the course of this term, you will be responsible for creating your own individualized response to our guiding question, Is our civilization on the rise or on the fall?

This final project can take whatever form you wish. Possibilities:

* an essay
* a PowerPoint
* a model
* a diorama
* an interpretive dance
* a short play
* a short story
* an oral presentation
* a collage
* a portfolio of different kinds of evidence, explained orally or in writing
* a song
* a game
* a simulation
* an immersive experience
* an epic poem
* a painting
* an altered book
* a pamphlet
* a visual response
* a mind map
* sketchnoting
* a detailed interview with an expert
* anything that captures the concept with depth and complexity!

Those are only suggestions – you may have your own, original idea of how to pull this off.

You can work individually, in a partnership, or in a small group – the choice is yours. If you work with others, you will need to let me know, clearly, who was responsible for what aspects of your work.

Regardless of what form your project takes, there are some criteria that you need to meet.

***Criteria***

1. **Clarity of communication**: how do you share your ideas, evidence, and opinions clearly? This will look different, depending on what structure your work takes. If you are not writing or delivering a presentation, think about what you need to do so that we understand what you are trying to share. Do you need to provide detailed labels? Do you need to explain things to us after or during our viewing of your work? How do we walk away with a crystal clear understanding of what you want us you know?

2. **Depth and Complexity**: we began the year with an exploration of the depth and complexity icons; now is the time to go back and revisit them and see how you can use them to your advantage to extend your thinking.

A graphic organizer of the icons is available under the main “Projects” tab on the class blog.

Also, here is a good site for providing an explanation of what each icon means, in case you need to refresh your memory: [**http://envisiongifted.com/services/understanding-depth-complexity/**](http://envisiongifted.com/services/understanding-depth-complexity/)

There are also many good videos online that help explain these icons in greater depth, with examples.

3. **Evidence**: how do you support your opinions with solid evidence, bringing them from the world of feelings into the world of facts? How do you know your sources are reliable?

4. **Balanced point of view**: regardless of your opinion – rise or fall – what can you incorporate that helps illuminate the other point of view? If you believe our civilization is on the fall, in what areas are things on the rise? If you believe we are on the rise, in what areas are things falling apart?

5. **Careful planning**: in the past, I have created checklists for major projects for you – you now will have to create one for yourself!

**In aid of this work, as we explore current events through various media resources, I highly suggest that you keep active notes, including the sources, in case you want to go back and re-read or re-watch something in order to gain a deeper understanding of the material.**

As with all major projects, time management is a key factor in success. This will be one of those projects that you’ll need to do a little bit of each day, at school and at home; if you leave this to the last minute, you will not be successful and your stress-level will be high. Do yourself a favor and make space for this project throughout the week. The checklist will be your friend, in this regard.

**Due Dates:**

A decision about what form your project will take: **Friday, April 20**

Your checklist: **Monday, May 1**

An explanation, in writing or shared orally,   
of how you are incorporating Depth and   
Complexity into your work: **Tuesday, May 9**

Final projects: **Friday, June 8**