



# American Studies

Mr. Denzer and Mr. Lawrence

[ [HOME](#) ] Tuesday Oct 2, 2007



## Main Projects

This page contains links to the information and handouts that go with the main projects that we work on. These main projects must be completed for you to earn credit in this class. We will have four of these projects, two per semester.

### Project #1 - Your Family Story

The purpose of this project is to “get in touch” with your own history. This project will allow you to tap into the rich tradition of oral history by talking with your parents, grandparents, or any other relatives. You will take this oral story and create a written story, embellishing (but not fictionalizing) when necessary to make it more meaningful for the reader. Next, you will recreate the oral story for our class. This is when you will entertain and teach us about your family. Lastly, you will create a family tree to show the class so that we can see the connection between your story and your family. This tree will also help people visualize your roots.

**The Family Experience** (rubric)  
**Peer Editing Sheet for Family Story**  
 (for the rough draft)

### These dates are for 2007

Here are the due dates given 9/12

### Project #2 - Newscast From the Past

Your group's job on this project is to help research one particular year in our nation's history, then write it up as a newscast. You will have to create a final draft, word-processed version of your project and make copies for each member to use and one to turn in to us.

You are going to do a video broadcast as if you are locked into that year in history. You are also to present it as if it is New Year's Eve and you are looking back at the most important stories of that year.

We will give you many of the topics, but you must research and write about them. For example, each year will contain an international story (the only non-American one), a

### Project #3 - The Research Paper

All sophomores are required to write a research paper. We will go through this step by step, so if you pay attention and keep up, it is a relatively simple paper to write. Students must use a minimum of four sources and provide hard copies of those sources. Parenthetical references are required from each source and the information in the hard copy must be highlighted so it can easily be found. Each paper must contain a title page, outline, essay with parenthetical references, and a works cited page. The Modern Language Association (MLA) documentation style must be used.

**Rubric & Grade Sheet (2206-07)**  
**Research Paper - Source Slips** (print these, fill them in, and staple one to the front of each source)  
**Argumentative Essay Guidelines**  
**Argumentative Thesis Statements**  
**Is It Plagiarism Yet?** (You don't want to plagiarize!)  
**MLA Sample Formats for Citing Possible Topics**  
**Concession Writing**

Prewriting	9/17	10 pts
Rough Draft	10/5	20 pts
Peer Edit	10/5	10 pts
Final Draft	10/12	100 pts
Oral presentations start on 10/12 and these are also 100pts		

national story, a business  
or technology story, a  
thirty second commercial  
advertising a new  
product that year, and  
three humanities stories.

Sample year - [Click here](#)  
[Grade sheet](#)

### **Useful research sites:**

[Site #1](#) - [Site #2](#) - [Site #3](#) - [Site #4](#) -  
[Site #5](#) - [Site #6](#) - [Site #7](#)

### **Writing the paper:**

[Making note cards](#)

[Sample outline with tips](#)

[Outline](#) (this site has an "outline  
creator" you can use)

[Writing your introduction](#)

[Writing the body of your paper](#)

[Writing parenthetical references in  
your paper](#)

[Writing your conclusion](#)

[Peer editing sheet](#)

[Helpful checklist for final product](#)