Persona Journal

Standards

Students will be able to…

2. Identify the connections between the messages of literature and its historical context. C

5. Compare a variety of texts for purpose, structure, content, detail, and effect. C

8. Design an original project based on research by generating ideas and questions, gathering facts, and synthesizing information. C

9. Apply research strategies to prepare a credible research report. C

10. Produce documents of publication quality. C

14. Assess the success of a research presentation and process. P

Task

The purpose of this assignment (and Medieval Fest) is to give you a better understanding of medieval life and times which stand as the background to the literature we are studying. It should also enable you to practice some research skills.

You have chosen a medieval character to become and have introduced your persona to the class. Now you must begin your reading and research to develop your persona and knowledge of medieval life. Although the journal is a "creative" project, you will need to demonstrate in it that you have researched specific facts and information relevant to the period. For example, if you chose to be a medieval doctor, your journal should reflect specific details about cures, superstitions, diseases, practices, and beliefs of the day. For the purpose of narrowing your research a bit, assume that our kingdoms are somewhere in the United Kingdom in the year 1288.

As you work with the members of your kingdom, you will develop your persona in terms of your research and happenings in the kingdom.

→You will share insight from sources consulted during research in preparation for Medieval Fest. *These details might take on an informative tone, and you will attach a bibliography to your journal to give credit to the sources consulted.*

→You will also reflect on the decisions of your kingdom and their impact on your persona. *You will write this as an ongoing narrative.*

Your daily homework during your kingdom work will include self-directed short (1 page) reflections on the progress of your persona, and these short reflections should make up the 8-10 page journal you will ultimately turn in for a grade. Don't forget to maintain your medieval voice!

The journal should include the following kinds of information:

- physical description of yourself, your home, your family, your environment
- your coat of arms and genealogy (if applicable)
- your name and what it means

- conflicts your family endures under the present king
- an explanation as to how and why you are keeping this journal, particularly if you are illiterate
- your daily activities (work, home life including meals, entertainment, leisure)
- your attitudes and feelings about the church, your nation, your occupation
- a description of deaths in the kingdom
- a description of superstitions, charms, illnesses
- a description of holidays, festivities, church celebrations

Rubric

	King	Knight	Vassal	Serf
Appearance and creativity of approach	4—Thought clearly given to format and design (calligraphy, illuminated letters, medieval illustration, etc.)	3—Some thought apparent in format and design	2—Format and design not appropriate for the assignment	1—Poorly assembled
Authenticity: historical accuracy and language	10—Journal is consistently authentic in narrative and reflection	8—Some (2-3) inconsistencies in authenticity	6—Quite a few (4-5) inconsistencies in authenticity	4—Many (more than 5) inconsistencies in authenticity
Personal reflection on kingdom events	10—Thorough explanation of conclusions and evaluation of progress	8—Justification incomplete for changes in persona or evaluation of progress	6—Justification missing for changes in persona or evaluation of progress	4—Justification incomplete for changes in persona and evaluation of progress
Character and plot	6—Clear development of character and plot	5—Character or plot might have been better developed in some parts of journal	3—Character or plot have major gaps in development throughout journal	2—Character and plot might have been better developed throughout journal
Use of sensory details	4—Consistent vivid description “sets the stage”	3—Most of journal incorporates vivid description	2—Sensory details not consistent throughout journal	1—Sensory details largely missing
Indication of sources consulted	6—Bibliography of at least 5 sources included with correct format	5—Bibliography of 3-4 sources included with fewer than 3 errors in format	3—Bibliography of 2-3 sources included with 3 or more errors in format	2—Bibliography of 1-2 sources included

Total /40