

JOURNAL PREPARATION

Class, here are some helpful reminders about your Journal.

First, be sure you collect all of your discussion posts, and the sources you used.

Include the sources for all primary documents.

Go to "Content" and be sure you go over "Journal Instructions"; "Sample Journal"; and "Tips on Polishing Your History Paper".

Your Journal must include an introduction; a set of paragraphs summarizing all trips; a set of paragraphs analyzing the trips, sources, and primary documents you discovered; a conclusion; and set of sources. Use MLA format throughout. This means that you have 1 paragraph for introduction & conclusion; six to ten paragraphs for summary; two or more for analysis; and one for conclusions. That is ten plus paragraphs; and at two and one-half paragraphs per page (double spaced) that means approximately a five page minimum paper, plus the sources.

Here is the Journal grading rubric I use:

MLA format in general [10/10 points].

Introduction [10/10 points].

Summary of all trips [30/30 points].

Analysis of trips, primary documents & sources [30/30 points].

Conclusion [5/5 points].

MLA format in works cited [5/5 points].

Quality of works cited [10/10 points].

You should also use Verdana font, 10-12 point, one inch margins, and double space lines. The works cited page should begin on a separate page without hyperlinks. Do not use a cover page. The Journal must be in doc, docx, or rtf format.

Many students fail to give their considered thought in the analysis. Analysis means reflection on the experience. It means breaking the exercise apart and discussing what you have learned from the entire experience. Students often fail to analyze their primary documents! Don't let this happen to you.

Below is another sample paper. It is a B+/A- paper. Notice the clear intro. The clear analysis near the end. And note the clear conclusion. Also note it has sources within the paper listed in MLA parenthetical style; and a works sited list at the end. Many students simply list their hyperlinks url's for works cited—this will cost you points. Use proper mla format. Good luck!

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXX, Professor

History XXXXXXXX

December 10, 2010

Field Trips Through History

Throughout this semester, we as students were asked to go on virtual "field trips" through history to help us learn about how the United States came to be. These field trips allowed us to go anywhere we liked – to somewhere in the present or somewhere in the past. Yes, even in the past. We could "go back in time" to the site of an important battle, happening, or event as if we were actually there. Some field trips were more enjoyable than others, but they all came together and made for an interesting experience. The ones I enjoyed the most were about people who were the underdogs, the less fortunate, and the people who inhabited American soil before it was colonized. Such people included Indians, African Americans, and slaves. The field trips that dealt with industrial progress, such as the construction of the Erie Canal or the development of the steel plow by John Deere were also enjoyable. The trips that were not so interesting to me were those that were about battles or war times. Although these were crucial times in the history of our country, these field trips didn't pique my interest as much as the others.

The field trip that I found to be most interesting was when I traveled back in time to the 1800s when Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were sent on an expedition up the Missouri River. Lewis was President Jefferson's secretary and Clark was the brother of Revolutionary War hero, George Rogers Clark. These two men had instructions from the president to map the region and make detailed observations of the soil, climate, rivers, minerals, plants, and animal life they encountered. They were also to "investigate the

practicability of an overland route to the Pacific" Ocean and engage the Indian tribes on their way (Davidson). On May 14, 1804, Lewis and Clark started their journey and headed up the Missouri River toward the Pacific with 48 other men. Their first stop was in present-day North Dakota, where they spent the winter with the Mandan Indians. When spring came, they continued west, trekking through the mountains and the snow. For food and other necessities, they traded and spent time with the Indians they met along the way. While doing so, they recorded what they encountered, taking great detail to the way the Indians lived, the rituals they took part in, and the land around them. They ended their trip after floating down the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean. In 1806, Lewis and Clark reported back to Jefferson, presenting him with many journals, maps, drawings, and artifacts they had found on their journey. This expedition was at the forefront of westward exploration and expansion for the United States. This field trip was the favorite out of all the trips taken this semester.

Another enjoyable trip was traveling to 1830 when the Indians were being removed from their native lands because Americans' needs and wants for western land and racial attitudes were increasing. This event became known as the Trail of Tears. At the time, President Jackson convinced Congress to provide funds for the removal of the Indians. The Indians claimed that they had full authority over their lands and that no one had the right to extend their laws over Indian territory. Jackson ignored this statement from the Indians and went ahead with his plans to remove them. He assured the Indians that they could only be removed voluntarily, but he didn't take attention to the fact that state governments were harassing tribes into surrendering their land. The Choctaw, Chickasaws, Creeks, and Cherokee Indians were all affected by this removal. The people of these tribes reluctantly agreed to move to tracts set aside especially for Indians; this land is now present-day Oklahoma. Land-hungry schemers cheated the Indians out of ninety percent of their land. The Cherokees held out the longest before giving up their land. Their attempts were cut

short. Chief John Ross, the leader of the resistance of Indian relocation, was kidnapped by authorities and thrown in jail. He was not allowed to negotiate a treaty that stated that Cherokees must leave their lands before 1838. When Ross was thrown in jail, the Indians resisted and in response, President Martin Van Buren made the US Army round up the resistant members and force them to join the westward march to the Indian camps. There were over 15,000 Indians who traveled this Trail of Tears, many of whom died from exposure, disease, and exhaustion. The lands that were set aside for the Indians were smaller than the areas they left and were inferior to the fertile land that was taken from them. Jackson claimed that the Indians had been "placed beyond the reach of injury or oppression, and that [the] paternal care of the General Government will hereafter watch over them and protect them" (Davidson). The Indians knew that this was untrue. From that point on, they would be at the mercy of the marketplace and the hardening racial attitudes of greedy, white Americans. I had heard of the Trail of Tears before taking this trip, but I never knew that the Indians went through this much hardship from whites. This and other racial matters eventually led to better times for people of minority groups.

Such is the case of two field trips taken to the 1800s, to the times of slavery and to 1831, when the Underground Railroad was helping slaves to escape to freedom. Although the Underground Railroad was called a "railroad," it did not include trains or railroad tracks. It was a system of houses and businesses where slaves would rest and eat until they continued on their escape route. These places were referred to as "stations" and "depots" and were run by "stationmasters" (Underground). For a slave, running away was not easy. Sometimes, a "conductor" posing as a slave would enter a plantation and help the slaves, guiding them northward. Slaves usually moved at night, traveling ten to twenty miles before the next "station." They hid in barns and out-of-the-way places where they couldn't be found if someone came looking for them. While waiting, a message would be sent to the next "station" to alert them that a slave was on their way. Harriet Tubman was a huge

advocate in helping with the Underground Railroad. She made nineteen trips to the South and escorted over 300 slaves to freedom (Underground). Times of slavery were very hard for African Americans. Slaves were treated poorly, given harsh living conditions, very few clothes, and very little food. Planters usually bought rough, cheap cloth for clothing for the slaves and each year only gave adults at most a couple of outfits and a pair of shoes that would wear out by the end of the year. Few had ample clothing to keep warm during harsh winter temperatures. Some planters provided well-built housing for slaves, but this was rare. More commonly, slaves lived in cramped, poorly built cabins that were leaky, drafty, and unfurnished except for a few chairs, benches, a table, a straw-filled mattress, and a few pots or dishes. If slaves worked on large estates, they would have to walk hours to reach the farthest fields. Racism has been a prominent problem since the 1800s and still is an issue in some parts of America. Up until today's time, African Americans have lacked the respect they deserved. I enjoy learning more about African Americans' journey from slavery to independence. They have endured hardships that they deserve the utmost respect for.

Another field trip I enjoyed was when I traveled to the year 1837, when John Deere patented the first steel plow, forging the beginnings of Deere and Company. "Because eastern plows could not penetrate the densely tangled roots of prairie grass, the earliest settlers erected farms along the boundary separating the forest from the prairie" (Davidson). "One day, in 1837, John spotted a broken sawblade in the corner of a sawmill and asked the owner if he could take it back to his shop. There John Deere fashioned the world's first successful steel plow, and in doing so, opened up the West to agricultural development" (John). John Deere's new plow sliced through sod without soil sticking to the blade. This new invention made it easier for farmers to plant crops in a new, faster, more efficient way. This was a very important innovation in the agricultural world at that time. If

this plow had been invented later on, the West could have taken more time to be settled and cultivated, setting us further back in time as far as Westward expansion is concerned.

The field trip taken to the Ohio Valley about 2000 years ago was an interesting trip. In this valley, the people of the Hopewell Culture created mounds – semicircular rings that rose nine feet in height and covered more than a half a mile in diameter. The mounds were so immense in size that there is no doubt it took many hands to construct. The mounds tell researchers and scientists today that these people were skilled in building and had large numbers of builders within the culture. These ancient societies were complex in their religious practices and beliefs. The mounds served as burial places for leaders – male or female – in the tribe. When the corpses were buried, with them were buried their prized possessions and richest goods – headdresses, necklaces, shells, and pearls. Sometimes tremper, or effigy pipes, were also buried in these mounds. These pipes were crafted by artisans in the tribe, shaped into animal or human shapes. These shapes could represent spirit guides of shamans who “smoked the pipes to induce a trance state to assist with rituals of healing” (Woodland). I find it interesting to learn about other cultures that came before my time. They had many rituals and ways of life that are very different from what Americans know in today’s world. These people in these tribes and cultures were the beginning of the American population, even though they were not ever really considered “citizens.”

I also found the trip about the Paxton Boys very interesting. I traveled back to Pennsylvania in the year 1763, when the Paxton Boys massacred a group of Indians known as the Susquehannock (or Conestoga) tribe. The Paxton Boys were a band of Scots-Irish farmers that protested the government’s inadequate protection of frontier settlers (Davidson). This group of Indians lived peacefully among White Pennsylvania farmers, “but to the Paxton Boys, this group was providing intelligence and aid to other Indian groups” (Canaday). On December 14, 1763, the Paxton Boys, numbering around 50, attacked the

tribe, murdering six Indians and burning down the log cabin which housed the tribe's dead. "Also burning inside the cabin was the 1701 Treaty (Conestoga Treaty) signed by William Penn stating that the Indians and White men would live peacefully as one" (Canaday). The remaining tribe members who were not killed were put in protective custody. This was an unfair act committed on the Susquehannock tribe by the Paxton Boys just because they thought they were working against white men. However, this event was an important milestone in leading up to fair treatment for Indians and all people of color or different racial status. The Indians did no wrong to anyone, and this was the point that stood out to most people.

When Christopher Columbus, a Spanish man, set foot on American soil on October 12, 1492, this would be the beginning of settlement in America for ages to come. Before Columbus came to North America, he had only sailed south to Africa. At the time, "Portugal was committed to discovering the sea-route to India via Africa" (Christopher). Columbus tried to convince King John II of Portugal that one could sail west and reach India. When he was denied the opportunity to sail west to India, Columbus returned to his home in Spain in 1486. He then tried to convince the people there of his great idea. "His first attempt to enlist the support of the Spanish Crown was unsuccessful, but after a lengthy search for support in France and England, Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand finally agreed to sponsor Columbus in 1492" (Christopher). He set sail on his second attempt from Seville, Spain two months before they would reach their unknown destination. This field trip was very appealing because I had no idea how much trouble Christopher Columbus actually had to go through to travel to North America in the first place. This voyage for Columbus made him famous. He will forever be known as "the man who discovered America" and Americans will always be grateful to him for that.

Another field trip I found particularly interesting was traveling to South Carolina in 1680 when Charles Town (now called Charleston) was established. Sir Anthony Ashley

Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury in England, sponsored a sailing expedition of immigrants from England and Barbados to plant the first permanent settlement in South Carolina. Among the people on the ship was the soon-to-be first governor of Charles Town, William Sayle. Three ships set sail on their way to their destination, which was originally Port Royal. "The Kiawah Indians in that area convinced the settlers that Charles Town was a better choice for farming," (Lewis) so that is where they headed. The three ships were named *Albemarle*, *Port Royal*, and *Carolina*, which coincidentally, was the first ship to land in Charles Town. The settlers set up camp on the banks of the Ashley River and built a town, Albemarle Point (which has now disappeared in today's time). Ten years passed and the settlers desired a more favorable site for the town for living and trading. They chose a point between the Cooper and Ashley Rivers, and called it Charles Town. In the South, Charles Town was the center of economic, social, and political life. A governor was chosen in 1690 and Anthony Ashley Cooper, along with philosopher John Locke, created a government system and constitution for the state of South Carolina. Being from South Carolina and having traveled to present-day Charleston, seeing the history the town holds, I found this trip to be very fascinating. Learning even more than I already knew about Charleston helped me to see what actually happened when it was originally settled.

One of the less enjoyable field trips was traveling back in time to 1825 when the Erie Canal was finished with construction and opened for business. Built between 1818 and 1825, the canal was 364 miles long, stretching from Albany on the Hudson River to Buffalo on Lake Erie. This route would attract "considerable investment capital" (Davidson) and be an efficient mode of transportation for people and goods to different parts of the nation. In 1816, the United States had "only 100 miles of canals" combined, "none longer than 18 miles" (Davidson). Since the area that the canal was to be built in was mainly forests, swamps and wilderness, the construction workers and engineers had to rid the area of them. The Erie Canal reduced the shipping costs of goods from more than nineteen cents a

mile to less than three cents. By 1860, the cost had lowered to less than a penny per mile. Towns around the Canal sprung up and were established, which provided thriving markets and goods. After the construction of the Erie Canal, rivals of New York, such as Philadelphia and Boston tried to build their own canals. Ohio and Indiana constructed canals linking the regions between the Great Lakes. By 1840, the United States had more than 3,300 miles of canals. It's pretty amazing that the construction of one canal could spur the construction of so many other canals and waterways to be used for transportation and business.

Another less interesting trip was traveling to Saratoga, when John "Gentleman Johnny" Burgoyne surrendered to General Horatio Gates on October 17, 1777. This battle was a major battle of the Revolutionary War that took place on September 19, 1777. This was the first battle of the war and was fought between Burgoyne and Colonel Daniel Morgan. Burgoyne eventually forced the American troops to withdraw. British commander Burgoyne waited for support from Clinton, but he never showed. By this time, which was three weeks after his "victory," the American army was growing larger while the British army was diminishing. He had to take a risk and decided to go ahead with battle on October 7. After fighting for three weeks, Burgoyne and his troops took refuge at Saratoga, where they were surrounded by American troops numbering 20,000. Burgoyne surrendered when he saw that his army was outnumbered.

The least interesting field trip was traveling back in time to the night of April 18, 1775. This was when the famous Battle of Lexington and Concord was fought. Leading up to this battle was a time of great anxiety within the cities. "The city of Boston housed a large contingent of British soldiers who nursed shared antipathy with an increasingly sullen populace" (Battle). Because of this, insults and disagreements were common between the groups. "The tension was heightened by economic dislocation" (Battle). As a result of all this unrest, the people of Lexington were prepared for whenever a battle would strike, so they gathered the gunpowder and ammunition and stored it in one place where they would

have easy access to it if needed. When General Thomas Gage sent his troops to Concord to seize arms that were being stored, the very first battle of the Revolution took place. As the British troops were moving out of Boston and marching toward the arms and ammunition stored by the Provincial Congress in Concord, Paul Revere and his comrades rode out into the country to announce that famous line, "The British are coming!" During the night, the minutemen began to gather and prepare for battle. Shortly after dawn, "the British advance party approached...and the minutemen were instructed..." (Battle) not to fire unless fired upon. The British commander "ordered the colonists to throw down their arms and disperse" (Battle) because the American troops were so small. "Some began to obey the order to leave, but held on to their arms. At that point a shot was fired" (Battle) and the fighting began.

Although I found the trips about agricultural development and minority groups more interesting than trips about battles or fighting, each one of these trips definitely proved to be a learning experience because they helped to highlight time periods in history that were and are important in the history and culture of our country. I am glad that our instructor had us take these field trips around our country. Otherwise, I would not be as educated as I am now about everything I learned through these trips.

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