Documentary Pre-Writing

Your group has been assigned a historical figure for your digital documentary. Before we begin researching, could you take a minute and brainstorm everything you already know about this person? You might also say how you know this information (i.e., you studied him or her before; you saw a TV show on the person; you saw something on the Internet; you read a biography, etc.).

If you don’t know anything about your person, this is okay. Just explain and list things that you are interested in knowing.

HISTORICAL FIGURE’S NAME: ________________________________
Appendix A-2

Name: _______________________________________

Beginning Research

Tonight, your job is to begin researching your historical figure. Tonight you may only use two sources: either a textbook or an encyclopedia. If you use an encyclopedia, you may use an electronic one. As you begin reading about your person, I would like you to list ten things that you learned about this person. For example, you could list the person’s birthday, his or her greatest accomplishment, where he or she grew up, why he or she is famous, etc. Below are spaces to begin this work. After you finish listing your items, please cite your source and include the name of the source, the page numbers, the publisher, the date of the text, or the website address.

HISTORICAL FIGURE’S NAME: ___________________________________________

1. ______________________________________________________________________
2. ______________________________________________________________________
3. ______________________________________________________________________
4. ______________________________________________________________________
5. ______________________________________________________________________
6. ______________________________________________________________________
7. ______________________________________________________________________
8. ______________________________________________________________________
9. ______________________________________________________________________
10. ______________________________________________________________________
11. ______________________________________________________________________
12. ______________________________________________________________________
13. ______________________________________________________________________
14. ______________________________________________________________________
15. ______________________________________________________________________

Source(s) used: (Remember: Only a textbook or encyclopedia for tonight!)
Appendix A-3

Name: ____________________________________________

Digging Further on your Historical Figure

Tonight, your job is to use the other resources and find additional information on your historical figure. You may use the sources that were given to you in the packets at school. Hopefully, you have divided the information between your group members. As you begin reading additional information about your person, I would like you (again!) to list ten things that you learned about this person. After you finish listing your items, please cite your source and include the name of the source(s) and any other important information listed on the sources.

HISTORICAL FIGURE’S NAME: ____________________________

1. __________________________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________________________
3. __________________________________________________________________________
4. __________________________________________________________________________
5. __________________________________________________________________________
6. __________________________________________________________________________
7. __________________________________________________________________________
8. __________________________________________________________________________
9. __________________________________________________________________________
10. __________________________________________________________________________

Source(s) used:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________