



Pedigree Points

The Idea

How many
points is this
worth?

Will this
be on
the test?

Ultimately, the purpose of this project has nothing to do with a test. Instead, the goal is to develop the research skills needed to complete it. And your ability to research effectively is what makes you an **informed, engaged, and productive citizen of the world.**

However, it is equally important that you learn to make **connections** between your own family histories and the broader history of the representative era.

So what exactly are we **doing**?

We will spend approximately every other Friday over the course of the year working on self-directed family tree projects.

Want to know a secret?

I had to do this project in high school.

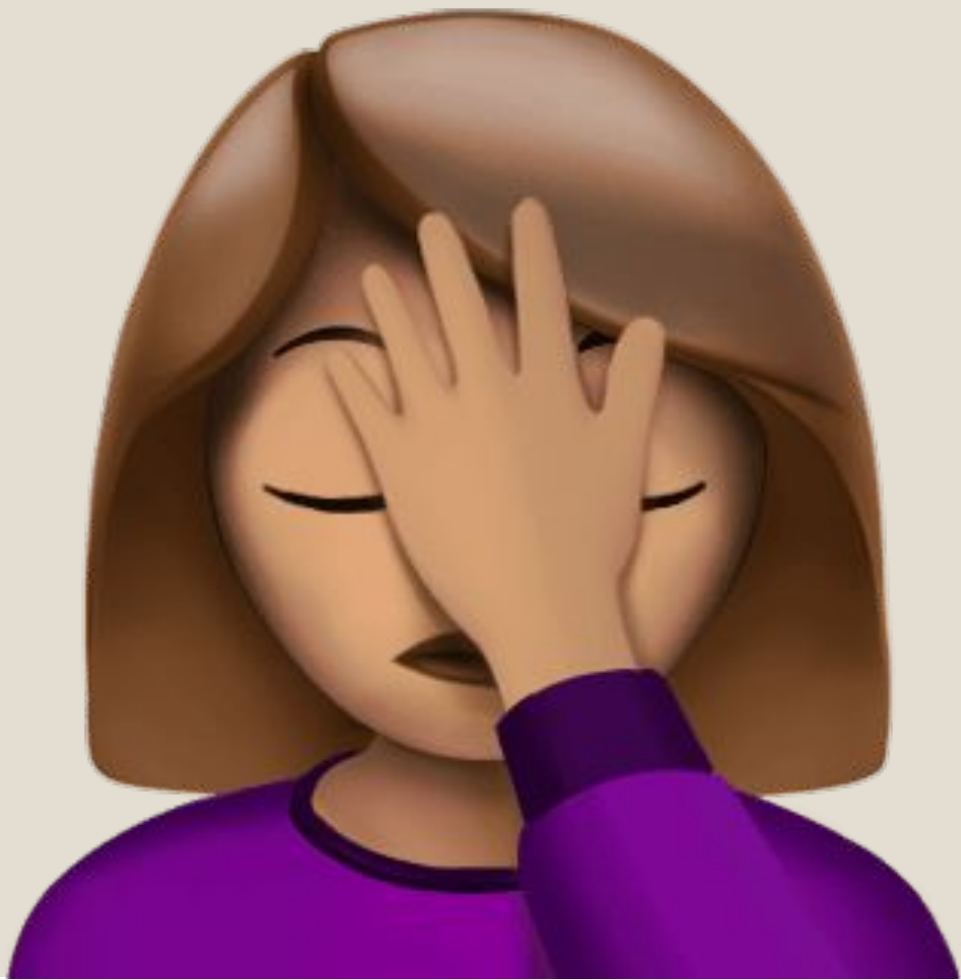
And I'm so glad I did.

The Rules:

- Your project must explore multiple aspects of your family history.
- You must complete 40 Pedigree Points per quarter (I will explain this more in-depth soon).
- It must involve reading or writing something.
- If, at any moment, you feel lost, overwhelmed, or frustrated, you must set a meeting with me to discuss solutions.
- You must be flexible/open to changes or adjustments.

Yeah,
okay... but
how are we
going to be
graded?

I mean, the only
thing that
matters is points,
right?



Fine, I'll grade you.

I will grade the **process**, not just the **product**.

(Failure is an option.)

- Checkpoint Meetings
- Quarterly Pedigree Points
- Final Presentation

The Points

Progress Points

The skills you learn in this class are applicable to the wide world of information. Even if you never read another fictional novel again, you can apply those skills to anything else you could possibly read or write. With that in mind, the goal of this year-long project is to give you an opportunity to start applying those skills to learn more about your own family pedigree.

You will show me the progress you are making on your projects by completing 40 Pedigree Points each quarter. These points can be achieved in many different ways.

At the end of the year, you will compile all of your Pedigree Points to create a final project/presentation.

Bibliography

Points: 5

Limit: 6

Requirements: Create a bibliography entry using a reputable source that addresses an aspect of your family's history (e.g.: immigration process, reasons for emigration, life for pioneers). Your entries should meet these requirements:

- An MLA style citation
- Summary of the article (2-3 sentences)
- Explanation of relevance to topic (2-3 sentences)

Independent Reading

Points: 20

Limit: 2

Requirements: Read a novel of your choice and critically analyze its connection to your family pedigree through a literary lens. Include the following:

- Name the title and author of the novel.
- Identify the genre of the story.
- List the major characters.
- Give a brief description of the conflict(s).
- Describe what you liked/disliked about the book.
- Respond to three items from a list of questions. (See full doc)

Film Analysis

Points: 15

Limit: 2

Requirements: Watch a film of your choice and critically analyze its connection to your family pedigree through a literary lens. Writing requirements:

- Name the film and its director, the run time, major actors, and year of release.
- Name and briefly describe the main characters.
- Briefly describe the setting – the time and place.
- In 1 –2 sentences summarize the plot.
- Identify and explain the connection between your film and your problem.
- Respond to three of the following items: (See full doc)

Recipe

Points: 5-15

Limit: 2

Requirements: Conference with Mrs. Aman about what you plan to make and when you will be bringing the dish. You will need to submit a typed version of the recipe of choice and provide enough to share with your entire class. Optional writing requirements:

- How does this dish play a role in your family history?
- What did you go into this experience hoping to learn/give/teach/etc.?
- What are the three biggest things you learned based on this experience? What was the overall positive impact of your time spent on this experience?
- Is this something you would make again? Why or why not?

Interview

Points: 10-15

Limit: 2

Requirements: Conduct an interview in which you carefully develop ten questions that relate directly to your family's history. When interviewing your relative(s), you should summarize the answer to each question. The questions you ask them should be open-ended, meaning there could be many possible answers. You must write a one paragraph reflection in which you discuss what you learned from this experience and how it has influenced your opinion on the topic. To earn a full 15 points, you must record (audio or visual) your interview.

Family Heirlooms

Points: 5

Limit: 4

Requirements: Find and take a picture of a family heirloom. You must also include a written reflection in which you address the following:

- What is the sentimental or monetary value of this object?
- Who had original ownership of this item? Who does it belong to now? Who will it belong to next?

Pedigree Chart

Points: 5+

Limit: N/A

Requirements: Create a Pedigree Chart for your family. You can expand your paternal and/or maternal side. Approximately 5 points will be awarded for every four family members you document beyond yourself and your parents. Any family members you document beyond the fifth generation will be awarded double the points (i.e. 5 points for every two family members). Be sure to include the following information for each individual:

- Date of birth
- Date of death (if applicable)
- Date of marriage

Creative Writing

Points: 10-40

Limit: 2

Requirements: Points will be awarded on a sliding scale based on word count between 500-2,000 words (approximately 5 points for every 250 words). Writing can be about any facet of your family history and in any style wish. Writing must be typed and word count included on the bottom. Listed below are various writing ideas:

- A biography about a specific family member or couple
- An essay in which you share your research on an aspect of your family history
- A generational story (something that happened to a parent, grandparent, etc.)
- A poem inspired by a family member or experience

Vocabulary List

Points: 10

Limit: 2

Requirements: Create a list of ten vocabulary words that are unique to your family. For each term, include a standard definition along with a brief explanation (1-2 sentences) describing its relevance to your family.

Other Ideas

Can you think of something else you'd like to do? Run it by me!

Requirements for student choice:

- Project MUST include reading and/or writing something.
- All aspects of the project must be school appropriate.
- Student must present me with a full picture of what you want to do, what the project would entail, how much time it will realistically take, and how many points you feel it should be worth.
- Conference with me to discuss the above considerations prior to beginning.