**8th Grade FedEx Day**

**Overview**

To finish off the second trimester, you will work on an independent study project on a topic of your choosing from American History. You will have two class periods and one homework assignment to complete this assignment and turn in a “product” that demonstrates your understanding of the chosen topic/idea/event.

**Topic**

You may choose any topic you would like to further investigate, provided that it is clearly linked to American History from the colonial era (1600s) to present.

**Examples**

* How baseball helped heal NYC after 9/11
* Medgar Evers’ role in the Civil Rights movement
* The legacy and accomplishments of a chosen president
* An analysis of the outcomes of an important election in US History
* Contributions by minorities to our nation (a famous woman, African American, Native American, immigrant, etc)
* How the United States has shaped the future of another nation

**Requirements**

Your research and presentation **must** include reference to:

* At least two reliable sites that are **not** Wikipedia
* At least one primary source related to your event/idea/topic
* Citations for **all** sources consulted and used (Use easybib to make citations and list with project)

**Presentation Form**

You will also have your own choice on how to present the work you have done around your chosen topic. Your final assessment for FedEx day *could* take one of these forms (or another with approval):

* A one page summary of your findings
* A powerpoint slide show
* A poster
* A pamphlet
* Children’s storybook
* Lesson plan (like in your *Junior Historians Field Manual)*

**Presentation**

Your presentation **must**

* Clearly define and summarize the event you chose to research
* Argue that the event you researched is worthy of presentation (Why is it so important/interesting?)
* Connect to another event in US History that we have already studied or will study (9/11 & the Middle East)
  + You must clearly argue and demonstrate the link between the events
* Evidence of primary source and web research in findings (quotes and paraphrases directly from sources)
* Provide a “So What”
  + What’s the point of your presentation? What’s your thesis argument?
    - My event is important because….
    - My event is worthy of investigation because…
    - My event is uniquely interesting because….