

HistoryAtOurHouse
Jr/Sr High - Homework Writing Assignment
Due Date: Monday, November 17

Students are assigned a paragraph length exposition to be entitled “*The World We Live In.*” The assignment consists of selecting the **four** anchor facts from among the seven we have studied that they believe are most important in explaining the character of the world we live in, and writing an explanation of what those four facts from the past help us to understand about the world around us.

The seven candidate facts are:

1. c.3000 BC - Menes/Narmer unifies Egypt
2. c.508BC/c.509BC - Athenian Democracy / Roman Republic
3. c.4 BC - birth of Jesus
4. 476 AD - European barbarians destroy the Roman Empire
5. 1492 - Christopher Columbus discovers America
6. 1776 - Founding Fathers sign the Declaration of Independence
7. 9-11-2001 - Muslim terrorists destroy the World Trade Center

The basis for choosing *four* facts should not merely be personal preference. It should be an explicit judgment of how the facts reveal something crucial about the world we live in, among which points we have discussed include *globalization* and *America-centrism*.

To help them decide which four facts to select, students should reference the class notes from early in the year, where the present-day significance of each event in question is presented, and the in-class discussions we have had about the “so what?” for each fact.

As a distinct step in preparing to write, it would be a good idea to list the present-day significance of each event and try to rank them from least to greatest as part of the selection process. If it is not possible for students to come to a conclusive judgement when doing so, students will have to resort to making a personal choice. In essence, *if you don't know which four to pick, just pick four*. They all matter, so you can't go terribly wrong!

As always, I welcome questions & comments at: mrpowell@historyatourhouse.com.

Assignments should be submitted typed and in a standard electronic format such as DOC, PAGES, or TXT.

—Mr. Powell