



Modern World History

Age of Discovery & Conquest: Meeting of the Minds

The Scene: As we study history, it is important to recognize the role that individuals have played in the course of events that changed the world. During the Age of Discovery, the entire world was in transition and the stakes were high: an accident could lead to a new scientific discovery, while a poor decision could cause the collapse of an entire civilization. Perhaps the best way to truly understand the period is to gather together some of these history-makers for some casual discussion.

The Project: Each student will choose an important figure of the Age of Discovery, research that person (their life, their attitudes, their impact on the world) and role-play them in classroom “Meeting of the Minds.” On the day of the gathering, each student is expected to remain “in character” for the entire duration of the class. By mingling and speaking with other historical figures, students can experience a feeling of the age.

There are four components to this project:

1. Research Notes – Each student must take their own notes from both the textbook and additional sources using proper note-taking format. A mixture of both books and electronic sources are expected.
2. Typed Summary – Each student must submit a typed summary of their character in proper paragraph form. The first paragraph will summarize the person’s life and accomplishments. The second must explain the importance of the person and evaluate their impact on history. The final paragraph will detail exactly how you intend to act and behave while portraying the character in class: what challenges or problems do you foresee? The summary should be typed using a 12-point font and fit on one side of one sheet of paper.
3. Works Cited List – Students must also submit a typed Works Cited List using proper M.L.A. format. It should be on a separate piece of paper than the summary.
4. Role-Playing – Each student will also be graded on their success at role-playing their character in class. Enthusiasm, costume, and historical accuracy will all be taken into account.

Research Notes Due: _____ Meeting of the Minds: _____