

D10 Presidential Proclamation (50 pts; due D12)

Imagine that you are **Pres. Washington**, and it is **1793**: France is in the middle of the bloody French Revolution, and it has declared war on Britain. France helped you in the American Revolution, and they want your help now. What do you do? Britain is extremely powerful too, and could cause problems, as might Spain to the West. Quite a problem. You may create this proclamation by yourself, or with a partner.

For this assignment, **issue a proclamation** as president. You cannot **declare war by yourself (without Congressional approval)**, but you are president, and people listen to your opinion, and you can issue **executive orders**. Share how you think these issues ought to be resolved, just as he did, in a proclamation printed in the press. **As you do, address the following questions / topics:**

- Quickly **remind** people of the **issues** at hand (French and British War; French Revolution, etc.)
- **Consider** the main **countries nearby**, and what **threats / help** they may **offer** to the **U.S.** (Spain to the West, Britain to the North, etc.)
- What **history** is involved? Who do we perhaps “**owe**” something to? (American Revolution, etc.)
- What **actions** do you believe we should **take**? Explain **why** you believe those to be the best actions possible.
- What **ramifications** would result from such **actions**? How would / should we **respond** as Americans?
- End with an **appeal** to the American people to **support** your **decision**.

DUE: D12 (you will be reading it in class; make sure it's ready!)

Note that to us today, some / many of these ideas / opinions may be strange, but for many people of the time period they were perfectly acceptable. Remember that this is an exercise into trying to understand the past from the perspective of the past and its participants.

Tips to Make this Assignment Awesome! (50 pts available):

- Make it authentic; use a salutation and ending, and answer all the asked questions.
- Use fresh, original ideas; also, ideas should be backed up by accurate examples, illustrations and a variety of support.
- Make sure your message to the American people is clear, strong, persuasive, and easily understood.
- Demonstrate a strong grasp of conventions by using proper punctuation, capitalization, grammar, usage and paragraphing in a way that enhances the message of the paper.
- Make sure your proclamation is neat, well-organized and easy to follow.
- Take the assignment and complete it in a way that is your own, yet is also a convincing imitation of similar products from the era (here's a [letter](#) I made to give an example)

Outside Resources:

- Links for old paper stock: [link 1](#), [link 2](#).
- Links for free unique, authentic fonts: www.1001freefonts.com, etc.
- Programs you could use: Google Drawing, Microsoft Word or Publisher, Adobe Photoshop, Paint, etc. Note that if you use a unique program, you'll want to save the final product as a standardized file that I can view to grade (i.e., PDF, JPEG, etc.)

Proclamation Rubric:

Criteria	Accomplished 16-20%	Satisfactory 11-15%	Developing 6-10%	Beginning 0-5%	Score
Ideas	Ideas were expressed in a clear and organized fashion. It was easy to figure out what the letter was about.	Ideas were expressed in a pretty clear manner, but the organization could have been better.	Ideas were somewhat organized, but were not very clear. It took more than one reading to figure out what the letter was about.	The letter seemed to be a collection of unrelated sentences. It was very difficult to figure out what the letter was about.	
Content Accuracy	The proclamation contains at least 5 accurate facts about the topic, answers all of the questions	The proclamation contains 4-3 accurate facts about the topic, answers most of the required questions	The proclamation contains some accurate facts about the topic, answers some of the required questions	The proclamation contains minimal or no accurate facts about the topic, doesn't answer the required questions	
Length	The proclamation is at least 3 paragraphs long	The proclamation is 2 longish paragraphs, or 3 very short ones long	The proclamation is one long paragraph or 2 short ones	The proclamation is hardly more than several sentences	
Conventions (spelling, etc.)	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling. Salutation and closing have no errors	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar and/or spelling. Salutation and closing have 1-2 errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar and/or spelling. Salutation and closing exist but have multiple errors.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar and/or spelling. Salutation and/or closing are missing.	
Creativity	Student has taken the assignment and completed it in a way that is totally his/her own. The student's personality/voice comes through, yet is also a convincing imitation of the subject's voice.	Student has taken the assignment and has used source material as a starting place. The student's personality comes through in some parts of the letter, and attempts to imitate the subject	Student has copied some info straight from the source material. There is little evidence of creativity, but the student has done the assignment.	Student has not made much attempt to meet the requirements of the assignment.	

Comments:

Total Score: