

Unit 8: Emergence of Modern America Era Project

This rubric provides a consistent framework for evaluating student projects for Unit 8, ensuring fair and transparent assessment. It establishes clear expectations for historical research, analytical thinking, and effective communication, guiding students in evaluating the United States' shift toward imperialism and expanded foreign involvement at the turn of the 20th century. Projects will be assessed on historical accuracy, depth of analysis, and the ability to explain the causes, significance, and consequences of the chosen event. Students must present their research in either a recorded speech or a newspaper editorial, clearly addressing why the U.S. became involved, the impact of the event, and whether it should have followed imperialist or isolationist policies. Organization, persuasiveness, clarity, and correct MLA citations are required. Proper credit must be given for all outside materials, and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

ADD World and US History Second Semester for Unit 8 (Option 1 - Recorded Speech) Rubric				
Criteria	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Below Expectation
Content Accuracy & Depth (40 pts)	40 pts Shows deep understanding of the topic, with accurate facts, insightful analysis, and thoughtful connections. Content is engaging and well-developed	30 pts Shows deep understanding of the topic, with accurate facts, insightful analysis, and thoughtful connections. Content is engaging and well-developed	25 pts Shows deep understanding of the topic, with accurate facts, insightful analysis, and thoughtful connections. Content is engaging and well-developed	10 Pts Little to no understanding of the topic is shown. Major inaccuracies or completely off-topic.
Organization & Clarity (15 pts)	15 pts The presentation is well structured with a strong beginning, middle, and end. Ideas flow clearly and logically.	10 pts Mostly clear and organized with few rough spots. Transition could be smoother.	5 pts The presentation is hard to follow, and the ideas seem out of order.	0 pts Lack a clear structure. Difficult to understand the main message or progression
Audio and length (25 pts)	(25 pts) The speaker is confident, clear, and expressive. Audio meets the minimum required length.	(20 pts) The speaker is mostly clear but sounds a bit rushed. Speech is slightly below minimum required length	(15 pts) The speaker is hard to hear or understand. The speech is below the minimum required length.	(5 pts) The speaker shows little preparation. Very difficult to hear or follow. Audio is significantly below the minimum required length
Effort & Creativity (10 pts)	10 Pts The project shows exceptional effort and care. It is clear that time, thought and creativity went into every part of it	5 pts A solid project with clear effort. It could use a few more creative touches.	3 pts Some effort is evident, but it feels basic or unfinished. More thought needed in design or delivery	1 pt Very little effort or originality. Projects feel rushed and incomplete.
Works Cited Page (10 pts)	(10 pts) Correctly formatted MLA Works Cited page included with all sources.	(5 pts) Shows deep understanding of the topic, with accurate facts, insightful analysis, and thoughtful connections. Content is engaging and well-developed	(3 pts) The works cited page is incomplete or contains significant errors.	(0 pts) No Works Cited page included.

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ADD World and US History Second Semester Unit 8 (Option 2 - Newspaper Editorial Article) Rubrics

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Below Expectation
Scientific/Historical Content Knowledge (40 pts)	40 pts Demonstrates deep understanding of the chosen event and its significance. Accurately explains how it relates to imperialism, isolationism, and the Monroe Doctrine.	30 pts Shows solid understanding of the chosen event and its context, with generally accurate explanations of policy changes.	20 pts Displays partial understanding; explanations may be unclear, incomplete, or contain minor inaccuracies related to the event or policies	10 pts Lacks understanding of the event or foreign policy context; explanations are inaccurate or missing significant information.
Grammar, Mechanics & Punctuation (15 pts)	15 pt Nearly error-free grammar, spelling, and punctuation that do not interfere with readability.	10 pts Minor errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that do not significantly affect readability.	5 pts Multiple errors that occasionally interfere with readability and clarity.	2 pts Frequent errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that significantly interfere with readability.
Organization & Development (20 pts)	20 pts Information is logically organized with a clear flow; bullet points and visuals enhance understanding; strong transitions.	15 pts Information is very clearly organized with logical flow; paragraphs and ideas transition smoothly; writing is precise and engaging.	10 pts Generally organized with minor lapses in flow or transitions; writing is clear and mostly precise.	5 pts Organization is inconsistent; ideas may be loosely connected or unclear; writing is occasionally confusing or vague.
Effort, Quality & Creativity (20 pts)	15 pts This presentation reflects strong effort and creativity, with thoughtful details that make the content engaging and well put together.	10 pts The presentation meets expectations with good effort and some creativity; it is generally clear and accurate.	5 pts The presentation shows minimal creativity or effort and lacks polish or engagement.	1pts The presentation shows little effort or creativity; it is incomplete or off-task.
Works Cited in MLA Format (10 pts)	10 pts Uses a variety of credible sources effectively; all sources are cited correctly in MLA format, including a complete Works Cited page.	6 pts Uses credible sources with minor citation errors; Works The cited page is mostly complete and in MLA format.	3 pts Uses limited or somewhat unreliable sources; citation formatting inconsistent or incomplete; Works Cited page missing elements.	0 pts Sources are not cited or are inappropriate; plagiarism issues; Works Cited page missing or in incorrect format.

Plagiarism Policy Reminder

American High School upholds the highest standards of academic integrity and expects all students to demonstrate honesty and responsibility in their academic work. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of our school community, requiring students to complete their own work and appropriately acknowledge the ideas and words of others.

This expectation also includes the responsible use of technology. The excessive or inappropriate use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to complete assignments, tests, or projects in place of a student's own effort is considered a violation of the school's academic integrity policy.

Any instance of plagiarism, defined as presenting another person's work, ideas, or expressions as one's own, is a serious violation of school policy. Students found in violation of the plagiarism policy will face disciplinary consequences.

Students are encouraged to review the full policy to ensure a clear understanding of expectations and consequences.

Click [here](#) to read the updated Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Policy.