The Great Depression and World War II Era (1929-1945)

This rubric provides a consistent framework for evaluating Unit 9 student projects, ensuring fair and transparent grading. It outlines expectations for historical understanding, creative application, and effective communication, guiding students in applying their knowledge of how large-scale conflicts develop to a hypothetical World War III scenario. Projects will be assessed on historical accuracy, depth of analysis, and the ability to connect past events to modern global tensions. Students must clearly present one well-developed scenario, explaining the triggering event, how it could escalate from a local conflict to a global war, and the role of current alliances in this escalation. The project may be completed as either a 2-minute video presentation or a 600-word essay, with all sources properly cited in MLA format. Strong organization, clarity, and originality are required. All sources must be credited, and plagiarism will result in a loss of points.

ADD World and US History Second Semester for Unit 9 (Option 1: Video Presentation) 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	20 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.	5 pts Mostly clear and organized with few rough spots. Transition could be smoother.	3 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			
Use of Visuals (Video Option) (20 pts)	(20 pts) Clear, confident speaking at a natural pace with good expression and volume. Video meets minimum required length.	(15 pts) The speaker is mostly clear but sounds a bit rushed. The video is slightly below minimum required length	(10 pts) Sometimes unclear or rushed speaking; inconsistent volume or expression. Video is below minimum required length	(5 pts) Difficult to understand due to pace, volume, or clarity issues. Video is significantly below minimum required length			
Effort & Creativity (15 pts)	15 Pts The project shows exceptional effort and care. It is clear that time, thought and creativity went into every part of it	10 pts A solid project with clear effort. It could use a few more creative touches.	5 pts Some effort is evident, but it feels basic or unfinished. More thought needed in design or delivery	2 pts Very little effort or originality. Projects feel rushed, incomplete, or careless.			
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.			

ADD World and US History Second Semester Unit 9 (Option 2: Essay) Rubrics						
Criteria	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Below Expectation		
Scientific/Historical Content Knowledge (40 pts)	40 pts Demonstrates thorough understanding of causes of world wars; clearly connects historical WWI/WWII causes to the scenario of WWIII with detailed explanations.	30 pts Shows good understanding of historical causes and relates them to the scenario; some minor gaps in explanation.	20 pts Partial understanding; connections to historical causes are unclear or incomplete.	Lacks understanding of historical causes; fails to relate to the WWIII scenario or provides inaccurate information.		
Grammar, Mechanics & Punctuation (15 pts)	10 pts Nearly error-free grammar, spelling, and punctuation that do not interfere with readability.	8 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 Generally organized with minor lapses in flow; bullet points and visuals mostly support content; transitions present.	10 pts Some organization is present, but ideas may be loosely connected; bullet points or visuals are sometimes unclear or missing.	5 pts Poor organization; ideas are difficult to follow; bullet points are missing or ineffective; visuals are absent or irrelevant.		
Effort, Quality & Creativity (20 pts)	20 pts The essay is very well organized with logical flow; ideas are fully developed with clear transitions.	15 pts Mostly organized; minor issues with flow or transitions.	10 pts Some organization present; ideas may be underdeveloped or loosely connected	5 pts Lacks clear structure; ideas are poorly developed or difficult to follow.		
Video Option (40 pts)	40 pts Clear, confident speaking at a natural pace with good expression and volume. The project meets the minimum length required.	30 pts The project is slightly unclear; speak confidently at a natural pace with good expression and volume. The project is slightly shorter than the minimum length required	20 pts Sometimes unclear or rushed speaking; inconsistent volume or expression. The project is shorter than the minimum length required	10 pts Difficult to understand due to pace, volume, or clarity issues. The project is significantly shorter than the minimum length required.		
Works Cited in MLA Format (10 pts)	10 pts All sources are cited correctly with proper MLA formatting; the works cited page is complete and accurate.	5 pts Sources cited with minor formatting errors; works cited page mostly complete.	3 pts Some sources were cited, but the formatting was incomplete or inconsistent; the works cited page	0 pts No citations or works cited page, or the citation format is incorrect throughout.		

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		was incomplete.	

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.