

## **Social Studies Challenge Work**

Social Studies Challenge Work [SSCW] is intended for students who have a special interest in Social Studies or would like to complete work that provides a challenge beyond the work required of all students. It is entirely optional and is not for extra credit. Students who are concerned about improving or maintaining their grades in Social Studies should stay focused on required assignments rather than spend time on SSCW.

Before starting any SSCW, the student must consult with Mr. McDonald regarding the SSCW being planned. After submitting the SSCW, the student must consult with Mr. McDonald regarding its strengths and weaknesses and how it might be improved.

The SSCW should be formatted like the Sample Paper found on this Social Studies site.

There are two options for SSCW:

### I. An essay interpreting a primary historical source or set of sources:

A. The student should read critically a primary historical source document. If the student prefers, the essay may be based on a set of related primary sources instead of a single source. Besides being found in books, many primary sources are available on internet sites. The *Eyewitness to History* sites linked to this Social Studies site are good examples.

### B. The student should write a two-part essay about the source(s) read:

1. In the first part of the essay, the student should re-write the information conveyed by the original document(s) as a secondary source. In other words, the student should play the role of an historian writing about the information covered in the source(s).

2. The second part of the essay should express the student's reactions to the original document(s). This part could include commentary on why the student finds the document(s) important or not important, believable or not believable, surprising or not surprising, etc. If more than one document is covered, the documents could be compared and contrasted.

### II. A biographical book report:

A. The student should read the biography of an important historical character.

B. The student should write a book report covering bibliographical information and information such as how the subject's life was influenced by youthful experiences, the subject's main goals and achievements, whether the subject was successful, and the influence (good or bad) that the subject has had on the world.