**Topic: A Study of Human Rights in the World Today**

**Overview:**

This task revolves around the concept of Human Rights in the world today. On December 10, 1948, still in the shadow of World War Two, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document is made up of thirty individual articles designed to guide all people and nations of the world in the treatment of all human beings. Through this task you will study this document and analyze the degree to which a specific nation of the world has lived up to the guidelines set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the role of a U.N. advisor you will write a written report of your findings to be presented before the General Assembly of the United Nations.

**Process:**

This task is a multi-step project and includes assignments that will be counted as fourth quarter grades as well as a final culminating grade for the task itself. You must follow all of the guidelines below.

1. Each student will download a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document can also be found online at [www.un.org/en/documents/udhr](http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr) .
2. Each student will be assigned a country to study.
3. Students will conduct research to get a sense of what the current state of affairs is in their assigned nation. There are two online resources to use during this research phase. For general information regarding your country, use [www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/](http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/) . This is a user friendly website with updated and reliable information. The second website to use is [www.hrw.org/](http://www.hrw.org/) . This is the website for Human Rights Watch, an organization which studies human rights in the world today in order to inform people and nations of the world. Their ultimate goal is to limit or eliminate human rights abuses around the world. At this site you will find current news stories to help you analyze to what degree your country is living up to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. You are also expected to research and use a minimum of one additional source. This should be a relatively recent news story which adds to your understanding of human rights in your selected country. Remember you must cite each of the sources that you use in your final essay.
4. While you are researching your nation you should identify three articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in which you are going to study more closely. Your job is to determine the degree to which your nation is actually living up to what is outlined in those three articles. To what degree are they actually doing what they promised to do? Again, you may also use other sources as well and be sure to cite any source from which you take information.
5. In a well-written five-paragraph essay present your findings regarding your country. Imagine that you are creating a report for members of the U.N. You are the authority on your nation, and your report will inform future U.N. policy decisions. Your thesis should answer the question: ***To what degree is the nation you are studying living up to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?*** Be sure to consult the essay rubric for the guidelines you should be following.
   1. General essay structure:
      * 1. Intro with a thesis that answers the central question
        2. Para #2: analyzes one article of the UDHR based on current news stories
        3. Para #3: same as #2
        4. Para #4: same as #2
        5. Conclusion

1. Within this packet you will find all of the documents that will help you to complete this task.
2. You must include a works cited page in which you cite all of the sources you used in writing your report.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment One**

Nation:

Important Background History:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Your Country | General Notes for your information |
| Location |  |  |
| Climate |  |  |
| Environmental Issues |  |  |
| Population |  |  |
| Population growth rate |  |  |
| Infant Mortality Rate |  |  |
| People living with AIDS/HIV |  |  |
| Religions |  |  |
| Education Expenditures |  |  |
| Government Type |  |  |
| Legal System |  |  |
| GDP |  |  |
| GDP per capita |  |  |
| Unemployment Rate |  |  |
| Population below the poverty line |  |  |
| Agricultural Products |  |  |
| Industries |  |  |
| Telephones Cellular |  |  |
| Military Expenditures |  |  |
| Transnational Issues |  |  |

**Assignments and tasks**

Following is a list of all of the homework and other grades associated with this common task.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **Due Date** |
| **Assignment One:** Complete the graphic organizer after studying your nation using the CIA World Factbook. This assignment must be turned in hard copy to receive credit.(15pts)  **\*\*\*I will NOT accept this electronically\*\*\*NO EXCEPTIONS!**  Due Date: June 14, 2013 |  |
| **Assignment Two:** Using the Human Rights Watch website research current stories about your nation. They are easily located in your nation’s section on the website. You should find stories that directly relate to articles of the UDHR that you want to study. Select three stories that will help you analyze the central question. Print a copy of the stories you will use. (5 pts. Each) |  |
| **Assignment Three**: Identify the three articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) that you are going to use in studying your nation and type a brief synopsis of each. (5 pts. Each)  \*\*Staple each synopsis to each article for admission on June 14. \*\*\* (This must also be in a hard copy form to receive credit.  **\*\*\*I will NOT accept this electronically\*\*\*NO EXCEPTIONS!** |  |
| **Assignment Four:** Your completed five-paragraph essay is due June 14, 2013. Be sure you consult the rubric for this essay. You should be able to self-assess your essay before turning in your final work. Your final essay should be completed in Google Docs and should be named as follows: example: Garno\_First Initial Last Name\_Country\_P3 |  |

**World Civilizations: Tenth Grade**

**Common Task Two: 2nd semester**

**Analysis of Human Rights in the 21st Century: Essay Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Intro/ Thesis:** | Thesis and intro are exceptionally well-developed and clearly focused on an analysis of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) | Thesis and intro are clear and focused on an analysis of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) | Limited or partially developed thesis and intro which only somewhat addresses the central question. | No thesis or intro, or an irrelevant and confused attempt. |
| **Body Paragraphs**  **This category of the rubric will be used to score each of the three body paragraphs required for this essay.**  **Paragraph 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Paragraph 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Paragraph 4: \_\_\_\_\_\_** | Paragraph outlines one article of the UDHR and provides insightful analysis of how this article has been supported in the focus nation and…  All Sources are cited correctly and…  Paragraph exhibits a sophisticated understanding of the current state of human rights in the focus nation | Paragraph outlines one article of the UDHR and provides an analysis of how this article has been supported in the focus nation or…  Minimal errors in citing sources or…  Paragraph exhibits a thorough understanding of the current state of human rights in the focus nation | Paragraph attempts to outline one article of the UDHR and only minimally provides insightful analysis of how this article has been supported in the focus nation and…  Some errors in citing sources and…    Paragraph exhibits an incomplete understanding of the current state of human rights in the focus nation | Paragraph makes no attempt to outline one article of the UDHR and does not provide insightful analysis of how this article has been supported in the focus nation and…  No attempt made to cite the sources and…  Paragraph does not exhibit an understanding of the current state of human rights in the focus nation |
| **Conclusion:** | Conclusion is well developed and skillfully connects to the thesis | Conclusion is clear and connects to Thesis | Conclusion is somewhat clear and is only somewhat connected to the thesis | Conclusion is unclear and does not connect to the thesis |
| **Grammar, Format, Organization and Clarity in Writing** | Grammar, format, organization and clarity of writing greatly adds to the effectiveness of the essay | Grammar, format, organization and clarity of writing contributes to the effectiveness of the essay | Grammar, format, organization and clarity of writing somewhat detracts from the effectiveness of the essay | A lack of Grammatical and formatting correctness, organization and clarity of writing greatly detracts from the effectiveness of the essay |