

Name: _____

Monday, September 22, 2008

Grade 7 – Social Studies & English Project

CELEBRATING JOHNSTOWN'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY A RESEARCH-BASED ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

Johnstown's 250th Celebration Committee has invited you to participate in an essay writing contest. The focus of your essay is Sir William Johnson and the trials and tribulations colonists and Native Americans faced during the 18th century. Together, Mrs. Sweeney and Mrs. Schuttenberg will assist you in brainstorming, obtaining, organizing, and writing your essay. Most of the work will be completed in your social studies and English classes this week; however, you will be responsible for working on parts of the project at home as well. Specifically, you will need to access a computer to type your essay.

On Tuesday, September 30th, your essays will be given to the Committee to read. Two winners from Knox will be chosen. Not only will the winners receive U.S. Savings bonds, but your essay will be included in the historical time capsule which will be buried near City Hall. The winners are expected to be announced on October 8th at a regional celebration at the Holiday Inn.

Since the deadline for submitting this essay is on Tuesday, September 30th, you must submit the essay to Mrs. Schuttenberg on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2008; NO EXCEPTIONS! If you do not submit your essay on Monday, your essay will NOT be entered in the contest. In addition, 10 points will be deducted from your essay grade for each day it is late. (Please note that Mrs. Sweeney and Mrs. Schuttenberg will be reading and grading these essays as well; you will receive a grade in social studies and a grade in English.) **YOU MUST SUBMIT TWO *TYPED* COPIES OF YOUR ESSAY ON MONDAY. ONE COPY WILL BE GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE AND ONE COPY WILL BE GRADED AND GIVEN BACK TO YOU. WHEN YOU TYPE YOUR ESSAY, PLEASE BE SURE TO USE TIMES NEW ROMAN FONT, 12 POINT FONT SIZE, 1 INCH MARGINS, AND DOUBLE SPACING.**

Have fun! Good luck!

“Through my example, I want to stir up a spirit of industry amongst *the people* here.” - Sir William Johnson (1715 – 1774)

**Please note that “the people” in the statement above refers to Native Americans.*

1. Please paraphrase Sir William Johnson’s quote. In other words, what does the statement mean? Put it into your own words.

2. What do you know about Sir William Johnson? Use the space below to brainstorm ideas.

Note-taking Sheet

Use the boxes below to organize the information gathered from your social studies textbook and relevant sources.

Sir William Johnson's BELIEFS (*paragraph 1*)

**ONE way life was difficult for the colonists and
Native Americans in the 18th century?** (*paragraph 2*)

ANOTHER WAY life was difficult for colonists and Native Americans in the 18th century? (*paragraph 3*)

How was Sir William Johnson a man ahead of his time? How was Sir William Johnson DIFFERENT from most other people during his time? (*paragraph 4*)

ORGANIZING YOUR ESSAY

Now that you have gathered and organized all of the necessary information, it is now time to write the essay. Use the following graphic organizer to structure your essay.

Paragraph #1: Introduction

In this paragraph, you will discuss what the quote means. In addition, you will discuss Sir William Johnson's beliefs.

- **Begin your introduction with: “Sir William Johnson speaks for Johnstown to the world. He believed that . . .”**
- **Using your own words, explain what the quote means.**
- **Include the information you gathered about what Sir William Johnson believed.**

Paragraph #2

In this paragraph, you will explain one way in which life was difficult for the colonists and the Native Americans during the 18th century.

- **Begin this paragraph with: “Life was difficult for the colonists and the Native American population in the 18th century. One way was...”**
- **Include ONE SPECIFIC way life was difficult for both colonists and Native Americans.**
- **EXPLAIN this difficulty in DETAIL. USE YOUR NOTES!**

Paragraph #3

In this paragraph, you will explain ANOTHER way in which life was difficult for the colonists and Native Americans during the 18th century.

- **Begin this paragraph with: “Another thing that made life difficult for colonists and Native Americans was...”**
- **Include ANOTHER SPECIFIC way life was difficult for both colonists and Native Americans.**
- **EXPLAIN this difficulty in DETAIL. USE YOUR NOTES!**

Paragraph #4: Body Paragraph #3

In this paragraph, you will tell how Sir William Johnson was ahead of his time. You will explain how he was different from most other people in his time.

- **Begin this paragraph with: “Sir William Johnson was a man ahead of his time.”**
- **EXPLAIN HOW Sir William was different from most other people in his time. BE SPECIFIC! Include as much DETAIL as you can.**

Paragraph #5: Conclusion

In this paragraph, you will explain how Sir William Johnson’s quote, **“Through my example, I want to stir up a spirit of industry amongst *the people* here,”** applies to you and your peers.

1. **Begin this paragraph with: “Sir William Johnson’s words speak to me, a citizen of Johnstown in the 21st century.”**
2. **EXPLAIN why his words speak to you. Provide a specific example of how his statement is relevant in your life today.**

REMEMBER:

1. **YOUR ESSAY IS DUE ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH. NO EXCEPTIONS! IF YOUR ESSAY IS NOT SUBMITTED ON SEPTEMBER 29TH, IT WILL NOT BE ENTERED IN THE CONTEST. IN ADDITION, 10 POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED EACH DAY YOUR ESSAY IS LATE.**
2. **YOU MUST SUBMIT TWO COPIES OF YOUR ESSAY. ONE COPY WILL BE SUBMITTED TO JOHNSTOWN’S 250TH CELEBRATION COMMITTEE. ONE COPY WILL BE GRADED BY MRS. SWEENEY AND MRS. SCHUTTENBERG.**
3. **YOUR ESSAY MUST BE TYPED! NO EXCEPTIONS!**
 - **USE TIMES NEW ROMAN**
 - **1 INCH MARGINS**
 - **12 POINT FONT**