The Poet Laureate Project

Everything you need to know if you’re a student (or a parent)

# Project Summary:

We are writing, editing, designing, and publishing an anthology of poems commemorating events from American history, with an explanatory introduction to each poem.

# Essential Questions:

* How do we decide whose stories are most important in history?
* How can words do justice to events?

# Exhibition

We will be holding a launch party for our book (and accompanying website), during the week of November 4th. The venue will be determined by the Event Liaison team.

# Project Deliverables:

## 1. A poem commemorating the event that you have chosen

This poem should follow a specific meter and rhyme scheme, and be written from a specific perspective.

## 2. An explanatory essay to accompany your poem

This should include the following information:

Information about your event

* Why you chose to commemorate your event
* The context for your event (that is, the events that led to your event, and followed on from it)
* The perspective from which you have written your poem

Information about your poem:

* The form you chose for your poem
* Any rhetorical devices that the reader might be interested in

Reflections on writing your poem - what surprised you as you wrote it, what did you change from draft to draft?

## 3. An “archive” of your creative process

You should be keeping your archive in a binder, as well as creating an online version in a google drive folder.

Your archive should contain the following:

* Your “perspective map” for your event
* Your “7 questions” about your event
* At least three early drafts of your poem, with critique notes for each draft
* An alternate version of your poem that uses a different poetic form
* At least three poems by different authors that you like
* The “Stuffed outline” of your explanatory essay
* At least two early drafts of your explanatory essay
* An annotated bibliography with *at least* four secondary sources, and one quote from a primary source

## 4. An “occupation” of class during which you will teach your peers about your event

During the two weeks between the book deadline and the launch party, every student will briefly “occupy” the class, taking over from the teacher in order to give a lesson teaching everyone about their event.

## 5. Your book launch team’s deliverables

Every student is a member of one of the following book launch teams:

* Venue Liaisons
* Event Managers
* Copy Editors
* Book Designers
* Web Designers
* Local Promotion
* Online Promotion
* Fundraisers

Each team is setting its own goals and roles. Team members will be responsible for carrying out their roles and fulfilling their goals.

# Deadlines:

The completed anthology will need to go to the printers two weeks before the launch party, so the deadline for completion of the book will be Tuesday, October 23rd.

However, poems will need to be finished earlier than this, in order for the copy-editing team to have time to edit them, and for the design team to have time to lay them out in the document.

**In light of this,** **the poems and prose pieces will be due by Friday, October 12th.**

# Project Timeline:

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| **WEEK** | **WHAT WE’RE DOING** | **DELIVERABLES** |
| **Week 1:** Oct 1-5 | -Reading poems that we like to the class-Creating an outline and “stuffing” it with data-Critiquing “stuffed outline”-Studying poetic forms and rhetorical devices-Setting a fundraising target | -Poem 1st draft with critique notes (two different forms)-”Poems we like” anthology-“Stuffed outline”-Book launch group project plans-Annotated bibliography-Event venue selected-Fundraiser target |
| **Week 2:** Oct 8-12 | -Drafting and critiquing our poems-Drafting and critiquing our explanatory essays-Copy editing “test run” -Creating and critiquing website plan -Creating and critiquing book layout design-Creating and critiquing launch event plan-Launching local and online promotional strategies | -Poem 2nd, 3rd, and **final** drafts with critique notes-Explanatory essay 1st, 2nd, and **final** drafts with critique notes-Event plan -Copy editing “test run” evaluation-Website plan-Book layout design-Online promotion plan-Local promotion plan-Fundraiser report |
| **Week 3:** Oct 15-19 | -Copy-editors edit poems-Design team puts all text into correct layout | -Archive due-Manuscript goes to publishers-Fundraiser money must be collected to pay publishers |
| **Week 4:** Oct 22-26 | -”Occupy Humanities”: students teach the class about their events | -“Soft launch” website |
| **Week 5:** Oct 29-Nov 2 | -”Occupy Humanities”: students teach the class about their events-Promotion goes into high gear-Event team gets on-the-night team together, does troubleshooting |  |
| **Week 6:** Nov 5-9 | -Promotions final push-Official website launch | Launch party! |