War on Drugs Project Ideas & Rubric

It is always important to summarize your learning by producing some form of material expression of your thoughts and understanding. Therefore, I am asking you all to produce several pieces that demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of such an important topic like the War on Drugs.

Here is a list of possible Ideas. You will be required to complete 8 out of this List. Of those 8, the Essay, the Reader and Notes, Memes, Movie Analysis, and Map are the required. So you may choose 3 more as expressions of your knowledge about this topic and your research. The entire project (8 pieces) must successfully address the Essential Questions for the Unit (see the Weebly page).

Required:

1. Essay: option #1 (Long Essay 10 pages)

 option #2 (Two shorter 5 page papers)

This is an opportunity to argue a position or perspective opinion on the war on Drugs (legalize marijuana, abolish prisons, make sentences tougher, more police, whatever). Also, it is possible to use this as a historical examination of the root causes of Drug Use/Abuse rather than arguing a position. Part of the points for this will include notes and an outline in addition to the essay itself.

For Option #2 you can argue both sides to complete the two shorter pieces. OR you can examine two groups experience in the War on Drugs or any two different topics as related to the War on Drugs.

1. Reader and Notes: students must demonstrate active reading by attaching or inserting visuals from the internet into the Word Doc version of the reader. Also required is a completed set of notes/graphic organizer based on the Six Categories and the information from the Reader “Drugs, Labor, and Colonial Expansion.”
2. Memes: Students are to create 3 Memes that use visually grabbing (yet appropriate) imagery and text combined with statistics and/or quotes that capture important information or viewpoint on the War on Drugs. Each meme must be diverse: different population, country, drug than each other.
3. Movie Analysis – We will be watching at least TWO movies that pertain to the War on Drugs. Students will be required to answer questions (provided by Mr. Byrne) or write a 2 page summary of the movie in order to receive credit.
4. Map – It is very important to understand the geography and communities impacted by the Global Drug Trade and the Global War on Drugs. Students will create a map either of the US or the world and the flow of drugs.

\*Pick THREE (3) of the Following Options:

1. PowerPoint or other Presentation Tool: Students use PowerPoint, Prezi, Google Slides, etc. to create a presentation demonstrating the knowledge of a topic related to the War on Drugs or the historical roots of Drug Abuse.
2. Creative/Artistic: Students create a song, poem, spoken word, drawing, comic, poster montage of magazine clippings, script for a skit, etc. This will demonstrate key points to understanding the War on Drugs including important historical points.
3. Timeline/Chart: Students make a Timeline or chart that connects the causes and effects over time of various factors that contribute to the War on Drugs.
4. Board Game/Choose Your Own Adventure: Students put together an idea for a Board Game that represents all the important points and knowledge to properly address the complexities of the War on Drugs.
5. Scrapbook/Photo Album: Students create a collection of photos and images that properly address the communities affected by the War on Drugs.
6. Pamphlet/Brochure: Students make this is efficiently share important information about the war on drugs, including the historical causes.
7. Newspaper Article: Students write a news article covering an aspect of the War on Drugs.
8. Children’s Story/Fable/Myth: Students sketch out a story that carries an important tale teaching a lesson about drugs.
9. Newscast: Students write the script for a news report covering an aspect of the War on Drugs.
10. Paper Chain: Students build a chain using paper links that thematically connect the causes and effects of the War on Drugs.
11. Pop Culture Collection: Students will compile a long list of movies, TV shows, songs, phrases, to show how Drugs and the War on Drugs permeate so many aspects of our society.