Historical Thought Project

For the past week we have learned the steps and processes involved in the historical thought process. These steps include sourcing, contextualization, corroboration, and close reading. In this project you will be creating your own historical inquiry project, which a partner will complete. You will find your own documents to examine about a subject of your choice in American History. You will compile these documents and pose an inquiry question. This question should be open ended to allow for interpretation based on the documents (think John Brown activity).

**Step 1:**  Choose a topic to create your historical inquiry project on. Some topics to consider.

* The American Revolution
* The War of 1812
* Slavery
* The Civil War
* The Progressive Era
* The Great Depression
* WWI or WWII
* Vietnam
* Cold War
* Presidencies
* Your Choice! Approve it with me.

**Step 2:** Provide a 2 paragraph summary of the event that you choose. This should come from a reputable source!

**Step 3:** Pose a historical inquiry question. This is not a yes or no answer question, but a question that forces the historical thinker to answer the question by examining the documents.

Examples: Was John Brown a “misguided fanatic” or a champion of civil rights?

Was the treatment of Native Americans during America’s expansion west ethical?

Was the civil rights movement successful?

**Step 4:** Find at least 4 sources that force the reader/analyzer to use them to answer your question. **For each source write a 3-4 sentence summary about it discussing where it is from, the context of it, if it is primary or secondary, and why it is reliable.**

**Grading:**

Topic Summary: 10 points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Historical Question: 10 Points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sources: 20 Points\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Total: 40 Points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_