

**How the Past Affects the Present. Objective:** Students will tie their past to their present through the study of history.

**Due Date:** B-\_\_\_\_\_ A-\_\_\_\_\_

## Why History?

### How the past affects the present

You have been chosen to apply for an extraordinary position working with the United States Foreign Service in the US State Department. If chosen for this position you will be placed in a special program where you will be trained to work effectively with others, learn numerous foreign languages and have the opportunity to travel throughout the world, meeting with foreign ambassadors, dignitaries and world leaders. Your training and position will give you the unique opportunity to be known throughout the world as one who made a positive contribution to the world and its historical evolution.

The FBI will complete a thorough background check; however the state department is interested in knowing how these events, i.e. your personal history, background or past has shaped and formed you. In this vein you have been asked to write a 2-3 page paper explaining and/or describing the events that have happened in your grandparent's life (and/or great grandparent's lives etc); your parent's lives; and your own life that have affected and shaped who you are, that is, your decisions and values.



The essays should be written in a 5 paragraph format:

- A. Paragraph 1 (introduction to your essay) describe what events you will cover in your essay.
- B. Paragraph 2-4 (body of the essay) here you should detail the three events (your grandparents, parents and you) that you will be explaining and their significance.
- C. Paragraph 5 (conclusion) conclude your essay by explaining why and how these events have changed who you are now.

The essay should be at least 2-3 pages in length and no longer than 3 pages. All essays must be typed 12 point Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, double spaced.

#### **Example Introduction:**

Bob and Sheila Williams left all that they had to start a life in a country that they did not know. They moved from their native land of Scotland with little but the clothes on their backs. Mary Williams, their grand-daughter learned early on that she would have to work hard in the farm that her parents owned in order for them to have enough money to live on the land that they loved in Wyoming. I started learning how to play the piano at an early age and have loved it ever since. All of these events, my great grandparents moving from Scotland to America, my mother's work ethic and my own piano playing have affected my present.

**Example 1st paragraph:**

My grandparents moving from Scotland started out my family's journey in America, which changed our lives forever. My grandfather, Bob, was a barber in Scotland but he always wanted a better life for his family. After saving money up for at least 10 years he had enough money to pay the way for his family to come to New York City by boat.

*I would then finish this paragraph by telling stories that I remembered about my grandparent's journey and I would explain how and why their coming to America was important for both them and for me.*

**Example 2nd paragraph:**

My mother Mary grew up on a farm in a small town called Alta, Wyoming. Each day she woke up early with her three older siblings to go and begin preparations for their day on the farm. My mother would get the eggs out of the chicken coop so that everyone could have eggs and bacon for breakfast. After getting the eggs for the morning she would help her mother make breakfast for the older boys.

*To finish this paragraph I would detail my mother's life on the farm and how working on a farm shaped her life and subsequently my life.*

**Example 3rd paragraph:**

The piano has always been a huge part of my life. When I was three years old my parents bought an older piano so that in a few years they could teach me how to play an instrument that they both loved. Right from the start I began pounding on the piano much to the dismay of my family because not too many people like to listen to a symphony, played by a three year old,.

*I would then finish this paragraph by describing my journey in playing the piano and its affect on my life.*

**Example conclusion:**

All three of these events have made drastic changes to my life. Without my grandparent's willingness to strive to provide a better life for their family I would not be here in America today, I would not enjoy the freedoms of living in a country with strong democratic principles and ideals. I cannot even imagine what life I would leave if they hadn't taken that first step in moving away from what was their home.

*This paragraph would be finished by reviewing the events that you have talked about and the affect they have had on your present. Don't forget this part, it is essential to your paper, tell the State Department why these events have affected your present, your values, who you are and why are they significan*

## Grading Guidelines

### How the Past Affects the Present

Guidelines	Pts possible/ Pts Received	Comments																									
<p><b>Conventions:</b>            Five paragraph format            2-3 page in length            Typed, #12 Times NR Font            Double spaced            1 in' margin            Spelling/ Punctuation</p>	<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black;"></td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black;"></td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> </table> <p>(Points above reflect spacing, typing &amp; margins)            5 4 3 2 1  <i>Total Convention Points:</i> _____/20</p>	5	4	3	2	1				5	4			3	2	1				5	4			3	2	1	<p>The paper is exemplary in its use of the assigned conventions. The paper follows the majority of the assigned conventions.</p> <p>The paper did not follow many of the assigned conventions. The paper did not follow the assigned conventions.</p>
5	4	3	2	1																							
			5	4																							
		3	2	1																							
			5	4																							
		3	2	1																							
<p><b>Content Paragraph One:</b>            Introduction            Introduction to the essay            Describe what events will be covered in the essay.</p>	<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>15</td><td>10</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	15	10	5	<p>The paper has an exemplary introduction. It indicated what would be covered in the paper. The paper introduced the topic but did not indicate what would be covered. The paper had no introduction.</p>																						
15	10	5																									
<p><b>Content Paragraph Two:</b>            Grandparents            Grandparents ,Great Grandparents etc... and their impact on the candidate</p>	<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>15</td><td>10</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	15	10	5	<p>The paper has an exemplary 2nd paragraph. It explained the choices their grandparents made and how they impacted the candidate. The 2nd paragraph clearly explained the choices their grandparents made. This paragraph was unclear.</p>																						
15	10	5																									
<p><b>Cont. Paragraph Three</b>            Parents            Parents/ Foster Parents and or Guardians and their impact on the candidate.</p>	<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>15</td><td>10</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	15	10	5	<p>The paper has an exemplary 3rd paragraph. It explained the choices their parents made and how they impacted the candidate. The 3rd paragraph clearly explained the choices their parents made. This paragraph was unclear.</p>																						
15	10	5																									
<p><b>Cont. Paragraph Four:</b>            You            Individual choices, and how they have impacted the candidate</p>	<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>15</td><td>10</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	15	10	5	<p>The paper has an exemplary 4th paragraph. It explained the choices the candidate made and the consequences. The 4th paragraph clearly explained the choices the candidate made.</p>																						
15	10	5																									
<p><b>Cont. Paragraph Five:</b>            Conclusion            Conclude the essay by explaining why/how these events have changed the candidate's present.</p>	<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>20</td><td>15</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	20	15	5	<p>The paper has a superb conclusion. It reviewed what had been covered in the paper and made clear the impact these choices had on the candidate's present. The paper included some of the required elements of a conclusion.</p>																						
20	15	5																									
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Strengths</b></p>		<p>This paper was easy to read This paper was</p>																									
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaknesses</b></p>		<p>This was paper was difficult to read. This paper did not follow the guidelines. Conventional</p>																									

Total Points Received

\_\_\_\_\_ // 100  
pts. Possible

It is evident the candidate has learned from their past. Their understanding of their choices, decisions and values make t an excellent candidate for the position.

It is somewhat evident that the candidate has learned from thei past. It is not always evident that they understand the histori impact of others on their choices, decisions and values. A clearer understanding of how their past impacts their presen would make them a better candidate for the