

*Due Date: Friday October 19, 2012*

Nathaniel Hawthorne Middle School 74  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Social Studies

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Class \_\_\_\_\_

### **“Personal” Narratives**

Industrial Growth was an important time period in American history, with much of what occurred having major effects on various groups of people. As part of our study of Industrial Growth, you will write a “personal” narrative as if you were a person living during this time period.

**Performance Task (WHST8-2):** After researching articles and/or books on Industrial Growth, you will write a narrative that ***explains what your life was like during this time period***. The description of your life should include the following:

- Details about your life
- Details about your job/business during the period of industrial growth
- Other people who were involved in your life
- Struggles and/or successes that you may have experienced
- Your personal opinion about life during this time period

Your narrative can be a mixture of fictional and real details. The real details must come from details that you gather from research. You will be required to use 3-4 different sources of information other than your textbook (e.g. encyclopedias, books, legitimate internet sources, magazines, etc.) A proper bibliography must be submitted as part of your project. **Plagiarism is, of course, prohibited.**

All projects must be typed. If you do not have access to a computer at home, you may use the computers in the school library. Your narrative must have a *professional appearance* (neat, carefully organized, appropriate font and text size, etc.). Your narrative must include at least 5 well-developed paragraphs (an introduction, 3 body paragraphs and a strong conclusion). Please refer to the writing tips on the back of this page.

This is an individual project. Your grade will be based on the rubric provided. It should be attached to your project when you hand it in on the due date. Your project ***must*** be handed in on the due date. Your grade will be lowered by **10 points for each day it is late!** As previously stated, absence, computer problems, or parent notes will not be considered acceptable excuses!

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*Possible* subjects for personal narratives: (can be a real or a fictional person)

- An inventor
- A westerner (e.g. farmer, miner, small businessman)
- A child laborer
- A factory worker
- A labor union member/leader
- A business leader
- A Congressman

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### **Writing Tips:**

- First select “who” you are.
- Then select at what point during this person’s life you are writing from. (Are you writing during the same time period as you are experiencing what you are writing about? Are you writing about these experiences later in life?)
- Write about the place and time during which you are writing.
- Write about real events (gathered through research).
- Write as if you are experiencing these events.
  - Write from the first person point of view. (Use “I” not “he” or “she”.)
  - Imagine that you were part of these experiences. Include what you heard, saw, smelled, tasted, touched, etc.
  - Include your thoughts, feelings, and opinions.
  - Put yourself in their shoes. How do you think he or she would respond to these events?
  - Explain how these experiences affect you.
- Include other people in your narrative.
  - If you are a “real person”, then include other real people.
  - If you are a fictional person, then create characters that make sense in your narrative (family members, co-workers, bosses, neighbors, etc.).
- Structure:
  - Introductory Paragraph: To pull in your readers try starting with a dramatic moment in your life. Include details of time and place to set the scene.
  - Body Paragraphs: Write about events in chronological order. Include transitions that show time has elapsed (e.g. at first, later, meanwhile, finally, etc.).
  - Concluding Paragraph: Bring your narrative to an end by explaining why your life mattered, what we can learn from your life, what you hope for the future, etc.
- Research
  - Write down all bibliographical information for each source before you start taking notes.
  - Take notes in your own words.
  - To gather information for your narrative through research, find sources that deal with:
    1. The time period
    2. The location
    3. Biographical information
    4. The group that you are a part of
    5. Other people similar to you