

# AMERICAN STUDIES COLONIZATION PROJECT

You are from \_\_\_\_\_ colony and have lived a very happy life in America for 5 years. Life is good but your colony desperately needs new settlers or it might not make it. Fearing disaster, you get a job as a *real estate agent* and sail off to England to convince people to settle in your colony. America is a very tough sell; people are afraid to just pack up their bags and leave England.

Assignment: In groups of 3 or 4, you will accomplish two tasks:

1) develop a **real estate brochure** and distribute it to fellow classmates (prospective settlers)

This brochure will provide basic information on your colony.

2) give a **presentation** to the class on your colony. You must act as a salesperson and sell the colony to the class.

*Here are your responsibilities broken down into steps...*

**Step one:** *Research—FIND information*

Find and read information related to your colony. I will provide a list of web sites for you to start. As you research, write down interesting and important pieces of historical evidence about your topic that you want to present to us. Divide your group to perform this task and then reunite after you have found enough research. **DO NOT GO ON TO STEP TWO UNTIL THIS IS DONE.**

**You must create a bibliography for this project.**

**Step two:** *Collaborate and discuss your findings*

Compile a list of consistent ideas that runs throughout the sources you research. Every colony is unique in some way. Your job is to identify this uniqueness.

**Step three:** *Make a CLAIM about your colony that you will “sell” to us*

Ask yourself this question: Of all the information I learned about my colony, what is the single-most important characteristic about my colony that makes it unique? Write it out in a sentence. (This will be your CLAIM)

**Step four:** *Make your brochure*

I will give you the format for your brochure. You must research and fill in all the information for which I have asked. Also, you must find or draw a **map** of your colony and place in somewhere on the brochure.

The brochure must be **photocopied** before the presentation and distributed to the class. You will lose points if your brochure is not photocopied on time.

**Step Five:** *Planning your sales pitch*

Now the creative part comes in. You will design how your group is going to sell your colony to the rest of the class in the context of a 3-5 minute presentation. It is very important that all of the group members participate equally during the presentation.

Here are the components of an effective presentation:

Introduction—Come out and tell us what your claim is. Do not leave us guessing. Grab our attention somehow.

Body (the evidence!)—Prove your claim through a series of highly entertaining AND informative activities. After each activity, make sure you relate it to the claim of your presentation. Come out and tell us exactly how it relates to your claim. (Warrant!)

Conclusion—end strong. Remind us again what your claim was. Come out and tell us!! Show us the TRUTH of what you are trying to prove. The truth of your claim should be obvious after the presentation is completed.

**Step six:** *Rehearse your presentation*

Practice, practice and practice. During your practice, constantly ask yourself the questions "**Am I selling my colony well enough?**" **Do I have a compelling claim?**"

BEST OF LUCK! We are really looking forward to see what you produce!