**Curating**

**The Genius of Leonardo da Vinci**

**Due Date: TBA**

**Objective:** Students will gain a better understanding of the quintessential *Renaissance Man*, Leonardo da Vinci, the wide range of his brilliance, and how he influences our world today. In doing so, students will be introduced to the skills demonstrated by a museum curator and in the end will curate and design their own exhibition of da Vinci’s contributions, beginning with research and collaboration and finishing with a digital mini-museum.

**Task:** In groups of 3-4, students will research and collaborate on a specific category of da Vinci’s genius in an effort to create a “digital” museum showcasing various works of the famed painter, sketch artist, sculptor, architect, inventor, scientist, and anatomist. **NOTE:** The group’s goal is to become effective museum curators who reveal to their audience a few of the great works of this premier *Renaissance Man*.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This project is not your ordinary group project where one person is burdened with completing the project. Your group work will require individual research, web page building, writing **by each group member,** and each member will be personally responsible for one artifact and written description (a museum label) of the work in the display.

**What is a curator?**

According to the University of Glasgow in Scotland, museum curators, “…are responsible for assembling, cataloguing, managing and presenting/displaying artistic and cultural collections. Curators are in charge of a collection of exhibits in a museum or art gallery.”

**Museum Exhibit Categories:** Categories willbe drawn randomly

1. Painter
2. Sketch Artist
3. Sculptor
4. Architect
5. Inventor (Mechanic and Engineer)
6. Scientist
7. Anatomist (study of Anatomy)

**Sources and Requirements:** Mr. Cass has hard copies of the sources listed above, but you can also search for them on-line.

**Source 1:**

* FSW’s online data bank: <https://www.jstor.org/>

**Source 2 (Provided)**

* National Geographic: *Leonardo da Vinci; Celebrating the Renaissance Man*. 2019

**Source 3 (Provided)**

* National Geographic: *Leonardo; A Renaissance Man for the 21st Century*. 2019

**Source 4 (Provided)**

* Phillips, John. *Leonardo da Vinci: The Genius Who Defined the Renaissance*. 2006

**Source 5 (Provided)**

* Janson, H. W. *History of Art*. 1962

**Sources and Requirements Continued:**

* **NOTE:** A minimum of **TWO** additional sources must be submitted by each group member – **not** one group member who took on the job of researching. In other words, besides the sources provided, your group should end with either 6 or 8 sources depending on group size.
  + For example, you are a member in the “Sketch Artist” category. You can use the resources Mr. Cass provided, but once your group has researched multiple examples of da Vinci’s sketches, YOU must find and use TWO additional sources to research that sketch and include the required criteria listed below.
* An MLA formatted, typed, work cited page of all sources must be submitted **two** days prior to presentation due date for review by Mr. Cass.
* Each group member is responsible for finding, researching, and displaying one artifact for public viewing. Each member is also responsible for writing a brief summary known as a museum label in regard to the artifact. See criteria for museum label below.
  + **NOTE:** The group must collaborate and decide what artifacts they wish to display. In other words, after researching and viewing multiple samples of da Vinci’s work individually, the group must edit 10-20 examples down to 3 or 4 depending on group size. This will enable all members to provide input and for the collective process to take place.
  + The group must submit a minimum of 10 examples to Mr. Cass privately at least **three** days prior to presentations before editing down to the required 3-4.
    - The group must also verbally explain their justification for choosing the edited 3-4 artifacts to Mr. Cass.

**Museum Label Requirements:**

Besides summaries – known as museum labels – of the artifacts, your digital museum must include a brief “Intro Panel” of da Vinci’s life with a word count of 100-180 words. Be concise. Also include a **unique title** of your exhibit. Who writes the panel and the title? This should be a collaborative effort, with one person typing the document and title. Information in your “Intro Panel” must include all of the following:

* 1. Unique title
  2. Birthdate
  3. Place of birth
  4. Educational background
  5. Single most important contribution to the Renaissance and our world today (considered most important by the group)
  6. One unique or unusual aspect of his life (considered unique or unusual by the group)
  7. Date and cause of death

**Museum Label Requirements Continued:**

Each group will utilize the following webpage for 10 tips to writing a label to gain a better understanding of what a museum label does and how one should be written:

* <http://www.vam.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/238077/Gallery-Text-at-the-V-and-A-Ten-Point-Guide-Aug-2013.pdf>
* The word count of your artifact’s museum label is 130-150 words. Be concise and include the word count at the end – in parentheses.
* Your label will require research and your findings must be carefully written to meet word count, as well as organized by:
  + **Topic** (What is it? What does your artifact display to its audience?)
  + **Theme** (Appearance, Significance, or Role in Renaissance life)
  + **Meaning** (After people read this they will know…)
* Your label should teach your audience.

**Style of Presentation:**

The group will collaborate and create a digital mini-museum exhibit of your category including all elements listed above by utilizing these suggested webpage creating sites:

1. Elink
2. Weebly

**NOTE:** If your group knows of, or prefers a different method, please inform Mr. Cass

**Verbal Presentation:**

Each group member is responsible for verbally presenting their contribution to the museum and the artifact they researched. The goal here is to not just read your labels, but to teach your audience what your discovered in regard to da Vinci and this particular artifact.

**Assessment:**

Please review all elements of the *Curation Assessment Rubric* and note that although much of the rubric focuses on the group and its product, there are **elements of individual contribution and performance** that will affect your overall score.