

## ***“World War II: Journal Entries”***

Mr. Meetze

### **Rationale:**

Throughout this course you will be required to maintain a personal war journal depicting your emotions and experiences that occur during heat of battle. Beginning with your experiences of boot camp as a 17 year old kid drafted during World War I culminating as a mid age member of the O.S.S in 1945 Japan you will tell your life story during the period of history know as that of the Great Wars. Remember, many soldiers used their journals as a way to express feelings they had difficulty understanding or controlling. (For some, this might be the only few minutes during a week, when they did something that felt relatively *Normal*)

Your journal will be graded on **Accuracy and Depth** of the Topic (citing a minimum of 5 examples from corresponding texts), **Creativity** (how you decide to tell your story), and **Realism** (associated with experiences and the mindsets of the men and women enlisted in the military). Hopefully, most of us will never have to experience the hardships of war in a personal manner as our “Greatest Generation” once did. We can only hope that through emulation and understanding we will learn what these men and women sacrificed for our country, the continuation of democracy, and for the citizens of the world. Good Luck!!

### **Directions:**

Your journal will count as **30% of your course grade each marking period**. Please bring in a **College Style Notebook** to leave in the class. I will collect and grade your journals in sets of 3 or 4 depending on the topic. You will turn in 1 set every 5 weeks or ½ your Journal grade for the marking period. Each entry should be **1.5 college size pages in length** and address the topic with depth. You may print or write in cursive. Make sure it is neat enough for me to read. I will not look through your response if I can not read it. Each entry should be numbered in the left hand corner, dated in the right, and be signed with your rank and last name.

### **Example:**

<b>#1</b>	<b>Journal Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
	<b>YOUR PARAGRAPHS HERE</b>	
	<b>YOUR PARAGRAPHS HERE</b>	
	<b>YOUR PARAGRAPHS HERE</b>	

**-Sign your Name and Rank (which should increase)**

**My Example = G.O.A. Meetze**

*\* Remember, if you write as if you are only doing so because it's for a grade, your journal will be cold and sound like a report. Be creative and*

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*role-play your ‘character’. Student soldiers who do so, will not only produce significantly superior work, but will also enjoy the course more. \**

**#1** U.S. Army Basic Training **Fall 1917**

*“The Price of Freedom Isn’t Free. It is Paid for with the Blood, Sweat, and Tears of Heroes”* - Thomas Jefferson

**(Background)** From the moment you enlisted (in my class) you may have had second thoughts. Unfortunately, you signed your name on the dotted line (syllabus) after the U.S. government drafted you meaning the Army (like me) owns you!! For the next 10 weeks you will be forced to experience the rigors of boot camp testing both your mental and physical fortitude by breaking you down then building you back up.

**(Task)** Using your Boot Camp Class Document Activity, Boot Camp Journal Entries, and your Visual Clips cite a minimum of 5 pieces of evidence which will help discuss the activities, processes, and rationale behind your four months of “fun”!!

**#2** Trench Warfare: ‘The Battle of Belleau Wood’ **June 1918**

*“Retreat, Hell We Just Got Here!”* -Capt. L Williams USMC

**(Background)** You are one the first American Soldiers to cross the Atlantic under General Pershing to be stationed on the Western Front. The Allies have withstood the last major German offensive and the time is right for an Allied counter attack. The assault is scheduled for 16:00 June 6. Unfortunately, you and your men along with the members of the U.S. Marine Corp must cross an open wheat field covered by preset artillery and machine gun fire.

*\* Historical Note: The U.S. forces would recapture the wood three times during the period of June 6-26 from the Germans The Belleau Wood Offensive resulted in the highest first day casualties in history of the U.S. Marine Corp. (until Tarawa 1943) and would lead to over 9,500 casualties of which 1,811 were fatal for U.S. forces. \**

**(Task)** Using your Trench War Articles and Simulations cite a minimum of 5 pieces of evidence which will help discuss the techniques, tactics, and horror of trench war.

**#3** The Lost Battalion and the End of WWI **Fall 1918**

*“These Are Acceptable Losses!”* - General Robert Alexander

**(Background)** The date is 11/11. The Time 11:11 AM. For the first time in 4 years the guns of the Western Front are now Silent. The only sound that can be heard is the sound of the politicians who ‘claim’ they are attempting to achieve peace.

**(Task)** Using your Lost Battalion Article, Peace of Paris 14 Points Doc, and the final Treaty of Versailles cite a minimum of 5 pieces of evidence which will help you as an

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American Veteran of WWI discuss your feelings about the horrors of war, how the potential post war settlements should be addressed, and what should be done to the Germans before you hopefully go back home to your family in 1919.