Modern European History

Unit 5 – Absolutism

Timeline Project Option

**Background**

A timeline of historical events is a graphic representation of units of time and events that occurred within a specific period. Sequences in a timeline challenge the viewer to make relationships between the events and better remember and understand the concepts involved, included the purpose behind the choices of what has been included, and conversely, excluded from the timeline.

**Task**

You will now choose what you believe to be the 10 MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS from this unit of study. You will identify their dates of occurrence and explain both the details of the event (who, what, where, when, how, why) and why you believe they are the most important events of the unit. You will list the events in chronological order from earliest to latest and plot all of this information on a visibly pleasing timeline.

**Process**

Look through the list of information on your study guide to help you identify the events you would like to include on your timeline (please ask me if you would like to add something that is not on the study list – you may include other events related to our unit of study that have been approved by me). Write a thorough description of the event and include an explanation of why you believe it ranks as one of the most important. This is essentially your rough draft; have someone proofread, mark up, and sign this written information.

Plan out your timeline: list each of the events in order by date, specifically identifying the oldest and most recent events. Decide what units of time you will need to use to include each event (days, months, years, decades, centuries, etc.). Draw a line on a sheet of paper and divide it into the appropriate number of equal segments that you will need. Label the dates on the appropriate segments from left to right. This will be an exercise in trial and error, based on the events you have chosen to include, the size of your poster paper, and what you think looks “right.” This will be the rough draft of your timeline and what you will use as a guide for your final timeline in order to ensure that it has an even appearance on the poster.

You will then need to decide how you will present the content information about your events. For example, you could list the events by name and date on the timeline and then have a narrative of each event next to the name on the paper, with a numerical link to the argument for its importance that is located somewhere else on the poster. Or you could write the name of each event on the outside of a folded piece of paper; attach the folded paper to the appropriate date on the timeline for this event and the reader will unfold the paper to read the explanation of the event written on the inside. There are many ways you could present your information; be creative!

**Timeline Poster Format**

Your timeline poster must include:

all ten events, listed by name and in chronological order by date

thorough explanations of each event, including why it is important, using correct grammar and spelling

sources for your information\*

a presentation that is neat, colorful, organized, and informative

a timeline poster *at least* 17 x 22 in size (two 8 ½ x 11 sheets of paper taped side-by-side)

**What You Will Hand In**

1. a proofread, marked, and signed rough draft of the description of each event and an explanation of why each event is important

2. a timeline poster that includes this information (with a works cited page if needed)

**Things To Remember**

You will be taking a 20-question, multiple choice assessment on the due date for the project, so you still need to study the most important information from this unit.

If at any time you are confused about what you’re supposed to be doing, please be sure to ask me, whether that means finding me at school, emailing, or calling or texting me (653-7828)!

**Project Due Dates:**

Black 3-4: Thursday, February 13th

Orange 3-4: Friday, February 14th

*\* If using information provided in class notes, no citation is needed; if outside sources are used, please include footnotes in the text and a typed works cited page on the back of your poster that notes each source by number.*