**CHC2D – Great Depression Letter**

Historical Perspective Task

**Learning Goal:**

By examining the factors that led to the Great Depression hopefully we have seen the impact of this period on the people of Canada. The goal of this assignment is to focus on Historical Perspective as it helps us develop an understanding of the values and morals of the time period we are studying.

**Task:**

Students will write a letter to the government (be sure to ‘send’ your letter to the appropriate government level) as a Canadian affected by the downturn in economic conditions in the 1930’s. Students will choose one of the following “in-role” characters to write their letter as:

* Prairie wheat farmer
* Wife of prairie wheat farmer
* Nova Scotia coal miner
* Relief camp worker
* Hobo (riding the rails)
* Someone on the dole/pogey/relief
* Someone in the family of an unemployed man (spouse, parent or child)
* Female factory worker
* Teacher
* Immigrant
* Employed Person

**Research:**

* For this assignment you will use information from a) your notes; b) a classroom source; and c) internet (I will be recommending sources)
* You will then complete the research notes templates provided for each source you choose to use.

**Perspective:**

When your research is done and your research notes templates are complete you will begin writing your letter. You must choose what issue or issues you would like your letter to be focused on and you must also choose which level of government (municipal, provincial, federal) most directly affects you and your issues (see table below to help you decide who you will write your letter to).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Level of Government** | **Responsibilities and Issues** |
| Federal:  1930- 1935- RB Bennett  1935- 1946- William Lyon Mackenzie King | International Trade  Relief Camps  Payment of Money to Provinces for Relief  Currency  Canada-wide Transportation |
| Provincial:  Research the provincial premier depending on where your character is and the date you are writing from | Health Care  Education  Water and Sewer  Electricity |
| Municipal Government:  Mayors (you don’t have to be specific unless you choose to live in a specific city and can find on the internet who the mayor was) | Public Relief (dole or pogey)  Soup Kitchens |

**Brainstorm – Letter Ideas**

**Paragraph One:**

* Address the government (be specific – see above)
* Give yourself a historically likely (plausible) name and explain your problems (also consider a date!)
* Use the details you found in your research or from in class notes and activities

My Ideas:

**Paragraph Two:**

* Explain what the government has done or not done to help your situation.
* Use your class notes and your research notes

My Ideas:

**Paragraph Three:**

* Explain what you would like the government to do for you. Propose solutions that the government could put into place that would help you.
* Use your research notes and in class notes

My Ideas:

**My Research Notes**

Source:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pages: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**My Research Notes**

Source:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_