

Appendix IV.1.4.  
**Historian Poster Assignment**  
**Due Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**

**The Goal:**

In order to create a painting, you need to begin with a canvas. In order to write a good play, you need a realistic setting. The canvas of our plays will be the Vietnam War. Since this is still a very broad topic, you will be creating a smaller, more manageable canvas by posing an essential question about the Vietnam War and answering it through research. In order to do this, you will need to find true historical data (primary documents) from which to recreate a realistic setting. Your final poster is **due in class on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**The Requirements:**

1. You will need to find a board that will be able to fit all of your information. This might be poster board, a cardboard square, foam board etc..
2. The text of the poster must include the following :
  - a. Your **thesis statement** should be printed at the top of the poster in big letters. Your thesis statement is your answer to the essential question you are asking.
  - b. Physical document (excerpt, copy of painting, lyrics, photograph, etc...). At least **4 primary documents** are required.
  - c. Next to each document, type a paragraph **summary** of what the document is about. In other words, explain in your own words what the document says or describe what it is. This should be a real paragraph (5-8 sentences with topic sentence, concluding commentary and concrete evidence in between).
  - d. Type a complete paragraph of **analysis** of the document. In your analysis, explain how the document supports your thesis (be very specific here).
3. You must, must, must **cite your sources**. This will probably be done in the summary (ex: This painting is titled *Mona Lisa* and was painted by Da Vinci in the year 1503.)

**What is a Primary Document?**

A primary document is an artifact that was taken from the time period itself. For example, the *Mona Lisa* painting, is a primary document from the Renaissance. In other words, it was created during the time of the Renaissance. If you were to use the *Mona Lisa* for your project, you would then type the two paragraphs on it. One paragraph would explain who it was by, how it was made, when it was painted etc., and the other paragraph would outline how the techniques, subject or style of the painting supports your thesis.

*Hint:*

Look for primary documents on the web sites listed on my digital portfolio. The San Diego Public Library site is particularly useful for this (go to the "history online" section).