

CANADIAN HISTORY 30F – CLUSTER 2 – CANADIAN IDENTITY

One of the main themes that we are looking at in Canadian history this year is identity. Many questions surround the idea of Canadian identity such as:

- What does it mean to have a national identity?
- What elements come together to create that identity?
- What role does history play in the formation of identity?

In other words, **what does it mean to be “Canadian”?**

To understand what it means to be Canadian means that we must first have an understanding of elements of identity such as culture, religion, politics, and economics. All of these elements will have been influenced by history and as a result, not every Canadian shares the exact same identity. Our personal and family histories will influence what constitutes our own Canadian identity.

The goal of this assignment is to tell the story of your Canadian identity, by researching and sharing the history of your family,

For some of you this family history in Canada will span generations, for others it will be much more recent. Regardless, each story is unique and helps make up part of the fabric of our nation. For some of you, your families may have already documented much of this information, however for others, it may be a bit more difficult. Therefore, throughout the project, you may choose to look specifically at your father’s side, or your mother’s side or both. However, make certain that you are connecting your family’s history to your current Canadian identity.

If you are not with your biological parents, feel free to give information for the family you’re with. **THIS IS NOT A FAMILY TREE!** I want you to tell the **story** of your Canadian identity. You will need to ask your parents, grandparents, or other relatives who you can contact fairly soon.

Here are some questions to use as a guide to collect the information for your project:

- 1) What country did your family originally come from?
- 2) When and how did they come to Canada? (If you can’t find out the year, give the time period.)
- 3) What problems, difficulties, or challenges did they face settling here and how were these problems overcome?
- 4) How does their cultural background (from their countries of origin) affect your Canadian identity?
- 5) What does it mean to be a Canadian? How does your thinking compare to that of your parents or grandparents?

As you complete this assignment, it is necessary that you also look at some (but not necessarily all) of the Historical Thinking Concepts. For example:

1. What moments in your family history are **historically significant**?
2. What were the **cause and consequences** of the decisions made in your family history?
3. What do you feel was going through the minds of your ancestors as they made the decisions? How does your concept of identity compare to theirs? (**Historical Perspective**)
4. How have family traditions **continued**? How have they **changed**? How do these traditions influence your identity?
5. Did your family struggle with tough times where difficult choices were made? (**Moral Dimension**) Have these choices influenced who you are?
6. Please also be sure to include **primary source evidence** in your assignment. I will be looking for a **minimum of 3**. (Keep in mind these can be interviews with family members, photographs, diary entries, or artifacts-or pictures of those artifacts to be safe)

Your story should be minimum **3 pages long** and typed. Make sure to proof read carefully and do any editing necessary. Relatives can sometimes tell wonderful stories about coming to Canada and getting settled. Be creative with how you tell the story!

This major assignment is worth **45 marks** and will be **TBA**.

Format:

- Title Page
- Story
- Bibliography (Any books or persons used for reference)

Rubric:

Title Page	/2
Bibliography	/3
Quality of Work (effort, length, editing, etc.)	
- Emphasis on Enduring Understandings:	/20
o Canadian identity, citizenship, and nationhood are subjects of ongoing debate in Canada's pluralistic society.	
o Immigration has helped shape Canada's history and continues to shape Canadian society and identity.	
- Demonstrated use of Historical Thinking Concepts	/20
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Total:	/45