**Subject area/course**: History/U.S. History

**Grade level/band**: 9-12

**Task source**: Summit Public Schools

**American Identity Project**

**STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Task context**:

Through this project, you will have the opportunity to study historical content that is more fascinating than anything a textbook can offer: the history of your family! In getting to know the history of your family and their relationship with this country, you will be able to analyze how and why your family might be here and see how different identities impact how we interact with others. You have grown up with these people and now it’s time to put them in context!

1. **Final product**:

You will interview multiple family members, reflect on the interview process and then give a 5-7 minute oral presentation (with visual) to share the information you have gathered. Essentially, you will play the role of the historian, gather information about your family’s history, and organize it into a presentation to share with your teacher and peers. The three aspects of the project inform one another, and so you will draft each component and receive feedback before the final presentation. The project steps are listed below with instructions.

Step 1: Background Information

Learn and participate in activities about the ‘American Dream’ and ‘push and pull factors’ that affected immigration to the U.S. Complete the American Identity Playlists listed below.

* American Identity: American Dream: <https://app.activateinstruction.org/playlist/view/id/51c0d70b07121cdd60e671ad/bc0/my-stuff>
* American Identity: Push v. Pull Factors: <https://app.activateinstruction.org/playlist/view/id/51b4e52707121c5f12000006>

Step 2: Interview

Interview multiple family members, guardians or another source about their experiences coming to the United States to learn about your family’s history. The format of your interview can vary, however, there are essential questions that you will ask. See the *Interview Directions* handout for specific details.

Step 3: Reflection

Write a reflection about your interview process AND your identity. See the *Reflection Directions* handout for specific details.

Step 4: Presentation

Prepare a 5-7 minute oral presentation that you will present to the class. Also, create a visual to go along with your presentation.

Your presentation should include:

* (On a map) the place of origin of your family, the current place where you are living, and any other locations you may have lived in between.
* The push/pull factors that brought your family to the US.
* A description of your family's experience when they came to the United States.
* Your family's definition of the American Dream.
* Your perspective on if your family has achieved the American Dream, and/or where you are in the process.
* Any other relevant information about your family, identity, and connection to U.S. history.
* You must include a visual. Visuals include: a (a) PowerPoint or Prezi with pictures, (b) Poster with pictures, (c) Video, or (d), Ask your teacher if you have other ideas!

**Additional Information**

1. **Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:**

* Ability to select relevant information and build an argument
* Knowledge of U.S. history as it relates to historical periods
* Ability to communicate ideas and information through presentations and visual media

1. **Materials needed:**

* Links to playlists:
  + American Identity: American Dream: <https://app.activateinstruction.org/playlist/view/id/51c0d70b07121cdd60e671ad/bc0/my-stuff>
  + American Identity: Push v. Pull Factors: <https://app.activateinstruction.org/playlist/view/id/51b4e52707121c5f12000006>
* Interview Directions Handout
* Interview Sheet for American Identity Project
* Reflection Directions Handout
* Organizing Your Presentation: Basic Outline Format

1. **Time requirements:**

You will complete this project over the course of 7 instructional days. The three main steps of the project will take about three hours each. Your teacher will provide more information about the timing of each step.

1. **Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the American Identity Project Rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.