

AP Language and Composition
Individual Projects for *The Great Gatsby*

Due Wednesday 4/23

For each of the following projects, you will need to do some preliminary research. Be sure to document any sources where you find information. Create bibliography to turn in with your assignment.

ARTISTIC PROJECTS

1. **Mapquest** - Create a map of Long Island and New York City, tracking the adventures of Nick and others. Include a map key, colorful illustrations, and a written explanation (1 page in length)
2. **Memories** - Create a scrapbook from Gatsby's parties. Include some of the more interesting characters from the novel. You may use magazine pictures or photos, but you must make sure that the format and presentation is that of a real scrapbook. Include memorabilia (letters, notes, cards, invitations, tickets, dried flowers, ribbons) as well as "photos."
3. **Party Time!** Acting as Gatsby, plan a party. Include an invitation, guest list, menu, entertainment, travel arrangements, gardeners' work orders, decorations, et cetera.
4. **Girls, Girls, Girls!** Identify comments about women made by characters throughout the novel. Create a visual (poster, collage, PowerPoint, portfolio of drawings, et cetera) which depicts each view of women along with the quote and who said it. To extend this project, you may also include other thoughts about women and their sources.
5. **Fashionista** - Create a virtual time period fashion show (slide show, PowerPoint, flip chart). Remember that fashion includes much more than just dresses: accessories, make-up, hairstyles, et cetera. How did these fashions reflect the freedoms women were discovering in the 1920s?

MULTIMEDIA PROJECTS

1. **Soundtrack** - Create a soundtrack for your own movie version of *The Great Gatsby*. Include at least 10 songs. For each song identify which character the song represents and what scene would feature the song. Create a CD with a cover to turn in.
2. **Dream on!** Create a PowerPoint (at least 10 slides) presentation on The American Dream. Define the American Dream; identify representations of it from the 1920s and from today. Compare and contrast the two versions.
3. **Scandalous!** There are many references to illegal activity in *The Great Gatsby*. What types of criminal activity were prominent during this era? What effect did they have on society? Choose a visually stimulating mode of presentation (Powerpoint, poster, etc.)
4. **Cars** - Between 1920 and 1929, automobile registration rose from eight million to twenty-three million. What effects have automobiles had on the lives of American people (pollution, gas use, industry, roads, and car accidents, etc.)? What contribution did Ford make to the automobile industry? How have vehicles and the laws that relate to them changed since their development?
5. **Song and Dance** - What types of entertainment were popular during the Roaring Twenties? Provide a general overview of several popular forms of entertainment and then choose one to showcase in depth. Think broadly – music, theatre, literature, social dancing, and so on.

WRITING PROJECTS

1. **Crash and Burn!** Discuss the stock market crash of 1929. Why did it happen, and what was its aftermath? How did it lead to the Great Depression?
2. **Color Me Crazy** - Write an essay analyzing a character from *The Great Gatsby* based on one of the colors associated with that character. How does the color apply to the character (emotional/cultural

connotations) based on the character's thoughts, words, and actions. Include quotations from the novel to support your thesis.

3. **Dear Diary** - Create a diary of one of the main characters from the novel. Each entry should include reference to some event from the novel and be at least half a page in length. The diary has to have a minimum of ten entries. The diary should have a decorative cover which is reflective of your character.
4. **How do I love thee?** Write a series (at least 4) of love letters from one of the couples in the novel. Each letter should accurately portray the personality of the specific characters. Find a creative way to package/store your love letters.

OTHER OPTIONS

If you have other ideas, please write up a project proposal for prior approval. Remember that the purpose of this assignment is to showcase what you have learned during the course of the novel. You may choose something that is inspired by the novel or is based directly on the novel. This project is a major assessment and counts as a test grade.

The Great Gatsby Project Rubric

	5	4	3	2	1
Bibliography	No errors, includes at least 4 sources	1-2 errors, includes at least 4 sources	3-4 errors, includes at least 3 sources	More than 4 errors. Includes less than 3 sources	Far below standards
Historical Accuracy	No errors	1-2 errors	3-4 errors	More than 4 error	Far below standards
Connection to the Novel	Clear and explicit connection	Mostly clear and explicit connection	Attempts to connect to novel	Makes vague connection to novel	Far below standards
Visual Presentation	Unique, error-free, displays enthusiasm for assignment	Acceptable, mostly error-free, displays some enthusiasm for assignment	May seem rushed, contains some errors displays little enthusiasm for assignment	Seems thrown together, contains several errors, displays no enthusiasm for assignment	Far below standards
Presentation Skills	Presentation is entertaining and informative, speaker is confident, clear, and enthusiastic	Presentation is mostly entertaining and informative, speaker is somewhat confident, clear, and enthusiastic	Presentation is either entertaining or informative, but not necessarily both. The speaker may not be confident, clear, or enthusiastic.	Presentation isn't particularly entertaining or informative. The speaker speaker is not confident, clear, or enthusiastic.	Far below standards.
Overall Originality and Creativity	Extremely original and creative	Somewhat original and creative	Acceptable, but not particularly original or creative	Lacks originality and/or creativity	Far below standards

