

## **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE RENAISSANCE GRADE LEVEL PROJECT**

(Counts as a test grade in Math, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts)

**DUE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Objective:** Students will research and evaluate the culture, economy, lifestyles, and effects of scientific discovery during the Renaissance period. In order to evaluate the social hierarchies, students will develop a resume and portfolio to justify why they should be allowed to “move up” within the hierarchy.

### **HELP WANTED!!!**

If you are qualified and worthy enough to perform the duties of the following positions, please bring your resume and a portfolio to our Annual Festival of Moving Up! Call your local cultural director (alias Social Studies teacher) or send your resume and portfolio to the Court of Fools (your sixth grade teachers) for consideration.

---

Each student will create a portfolio to include: a **resume** (name, address, objective, work history, awards/recognitions, and references), a **sample** of his/her work (music, art, speech, writing, etc.), a **cover letter** that justifies why this particular work sample proves that he/she is qualified for the job, and a **report** that justifies how he/she will contribute to the overall economy of our village in a positive manner.

### **I. Resume – 25 points (sample below)**

- Must include: name, address, objective, work history, awards/recognitions, and references
- Be creative and remember to “sell” yourself out of the lower classes!
- 12 point Times New Roman
- No more than 2 pages

### **II. Work Sample – 25 points**

This aspect of the project should connect to the position and integrate the Renaissance time period for which you are applying. For example, if you would like to become a dancer, then an appropriate dance for the Renaissance era would be appropriate. Other examples include:

- Political leader – speech, commercial, editorial, etc.
- Pope – speech, research paper on religion during the era, etc.
- Artist – painting, sculpture, etc.
- Scientist – project, invention, etc.
- Mathematician – architecture, astronomy, Pythagorean theory, etc.
- Shakespeare’s Apprentice – writing samples,
- Dante’s Scribe – samples of fiction, poetry, drama, etc.
- Musician – performance, written song, etc.

Presentations will be conducted during our Renaissance fair and graded according to the rubric. The work sample must: reference the Renaissance time period, integrate aspects of the job you are applying for (do not sing a song if you are applying to be Dante's Scribe!), and be creative!

### **III. Cover Letter – 25 points (example below)**

The cover letter must make an argument for why you should be hired. It should include the following:

- Name and address of both parties (sender and receiver)
- Introduction paragraph – Introduce yourself and why you are applying for the job and then begin to discuss your work history
- Second paragraph – continue discussing work history
- Third paragraph – state what your strengths are and how you will make a difference
- Fourth paragraph – conclusion in which you thank them and inform them you are looking forwarding to hearing from them
- 12 point Times New Roman
- No more than one page

### **IV. “FAST FORWARD” ESSAY: The Renaissance vs. The Present (2011) – 25 points (example included)**

This essay should compare and contrast economic life during the Renaissance with the current state of the economy in our world. Focus on a **specific** aspect of the Renaissance that relates to your new “position.”

For example:

- Politics, Religion ,Art, Math/Science, Writing/Publishing ,Theatre, Music ,Inventions, Class System in general

*Example: I may look specifically at the music of the Renaissance if I am applying to be a musician. I would investigate how musicians made a living during the Renaissance and compare and contrast the information to salaries and positions in the industry today. I would look for economic connections and influences from the Renaissance that I may see in our current music industry. I would examine how musicians got paid then and how they get paid now – who is responsible for their “paychecks?”*

Through research, you will need to provide specific examples from each time period, making connections through similarities, and highlighting how things have changed economically through the differences. Support your claims with details and elaboration. Finally, you should explain what the implications your findings are. How does it affect us today? Do we still have a class system? Is this industry financially stable or making more that they should?

- 12 point Times New Roman
- No more than one page
- At least 3 paragraphs to support data

In addition to your essay, you must create a graphic representation of how things have changed or remained the same over time.

**OPTIONS:**

- Chart/graph
- Graphic organizer
- Timeline
- Info-graphic

The resume, cover letter, and essay should use credible research sources for support and evidence to support your argument. Students are required to use at least 5 sources for research (book, websites, and encyclopedias) and create a Works Cited page. Time will be provided at school for research, media center, and time in the computer lab with all teachers within his/her team. Our media center specialist will also provide research sessions for all students. However, some time will be needed at home as well. All projects will be graded by the homeroom teacher and will be due on Monday, December 12 to be used in a culminating Renaissance Fair where students will have the opportunity to interview with local companies.

**Essay Works Cited Sample - goes with essay (see above)**

Breka, Laura P. "Justice Misjudges." The Judicial System. 1978. 4 Dec 1993

><http://www.judicialsystem.gov/~judicial/library.html>>.

Di Rado, Alicia. "Trekking through College: Classes Explore Modern Society Using the World of Star Trek." Los Angeles Times 15 Mar. 1995: A3.

James, Nancy E. "Two Sides of Paradise: The Eden Myth According to Kirk and Spock." Spectrum of the Fantastic. Ed. Donald Palumbo. Westport: Greenwood, 1988. 219-223.

Okuda, Michael, and Denise Okuda. Star Trek Chronology: The History of the Future. New York: Pocket, 1993.

Sturgeon, Theodore. "Science Fiction." The Encyclopedia Americana. International ed. 1995.

Wilcox, Rhonda V. "Shifting Roles and Synthetic Women in Star Trek: The Next Generation." Studies in Popular Culture 13.2 (1991): 53-65.

Part III - Sample Cover Letter

Jane Doe  
940 Sam Newell Road  
Matthews, North Carolina 28105

November 3, 2011

Dante  
Famous Writer  
Dante's Got Words!  
1313 Inferno Street  
Florence, Italy 131313-21331

Dear Mr. Dante:

I am writing in response to your advertisement in the Daily Journal for a scribe. After reading your job description, I am confident that my skills and my passion for writing are a perfect match for this position. My background includes several positions with newspapers across Italy. I began my newspaper career as a salesperson on the streets and was very successful after several villages had been ravaged.

After such tremendous sales, I was promoted to the press room where we actually printed the newspapers. I was very fortunate because I was able to work with Sheila Gutenberg – whose uncle invented the printing press – and was able to learn so much about how the presses worked. In fact, I created a “how to” document for newspapers across Florence, and that is when the editors of the newspaper noticed my writing skills. Since then I have written many award winning articles at the Florence Daily News covering topics such as the black death, various battles, and of course the antics of da Vinci himself.

However, my true strength is writing poetry and fiction and I am impressed with your poem *Commedia*, because it speaks so well to the various journeys in life that we must take. As you can see, I too, have been on my own journey with newspapers, and through that experience feel quite confident that I can be of assistance to you as you continue to write the epic classis of Italy.

I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss this position with you. If you have questions or would like to schedule an interview, please contact me by phone at 704-555-5555 or by e-mail at [jane.doe@newspapersareme.com](mailto:jane.doe@newspapersareme.com) I have enclosed my resume for your review, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jane Doe

## Part I – Sample Resume

940 Sam Newell Road, Matthews, North Carolina 28105 • 980-343-5755

**Jane Doe**

### **Objective**

---

To conduct research and assist in creating classic literature while learning the necessary skills to write effectively under the guidance and mentorship of Dante.

### **Experience**

---

1562-1563	Mamma Mia Breads	Florence, Italy
-----------	------------------	-----------------

#### **Apprentice Baker**

- Make dough every morning in preparation for breakfast
- Determine how to make sweet or regular bread and how much based on customer base

---

1563 - 1564	The Enquirer	Florence, Italy
-------------	--------------	-----------------

#### **Corner Salesperson**

- Read newspaper in order to be familiar with content and then sell the newspapers based on the most interest stories
- Develop data charts to illustrate operating expenses and net profits on a daily basis – correlated to content in newspaper (story) – using Newton method

---

1564 - 1566	The Enquirer	Florence, Italy
-------------	--------------	-----------------

#### **Pressroom Operator**

- Conduct a daily maintenance report on the printing press
- Develop data charts to determine how many newspapers need to be printed based on previous day's sales

---

1566 - Current	The Enquirer	Florence, Italy
----------------	--------------	-----------------

#### **Reporter**

- Research potential battles and make contact with leaders for interviews and data
- Conduct interviews with survivors of the Black Death and develop data charts to illustrate the extent of the effects that the number of deaths had on the economy

### **Education**

---

1560 - 1562	University of Florence	Florence, Italy
-------------	------------------------	-----------------

## Literary Awards

---

- Young Italian Writer of the Year 1561
- Top Corner Salesperson 1563 and 1564
- Young Gutenberg Scientist Award 1565
- Most Creative Obituary during the Black Death 1566
- Researcher of the Year 1567

## References

---

Leonardo da Vinci  
3300 Press Street  
Florence, Italy

Sheila Gutenberg  
2211 Sistine Chapel Road  
Florence, Italy

John Dunn  
410 Euclid Drive  
Rome, Italy

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**6<sup>th</sup> GRADE RENAISSANCE PROJECT  
GRADE SHEET**

**I. RESUME CONTAINS...**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Name, address, and objective (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work history (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Awards/Recognitions (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ References (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Final copy specifications (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ /25 POSSIBLE POINTS

**II. WORK SAMPLE SHOWS...**

- \_\_\_\_\_ A clear connection to the position (10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Effort (10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Creativity (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ /25 POSSIBLE POINTS

**III. COVER LETTER CONTAINS...**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Name and address of both parties (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Introduction (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Discussion of work history (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Your strengths and a conclusion (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Final copy specifications (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ /25 POSSIBLE POINTS

**IV. ESSAY CONTAINS...**

- \_\_\_\_\_ At least three paragraphs (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Facts supported by research (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Graphic representation (10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Works cited page (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ /25 POSSIBLE POINTS

**TOTAL POINTS EARNED:**