You will design and create a first-person narrative – in journal or scrapbook form -- that might have been kept by someone during the Revolution that you choose. To do this you will need to create a character that might have been traveling about or living in the colonies / country during the war to witness the events and battles you’ll be studying. This journal / scrapbook will reflect historical and academic research that takes us through:

- YOUR participation in the various stages of the Revolution.  
  - It will cover YOUR experiences from the beginning to the end of the Revolutionary period.
  - You will create a ‘composite’ character [someone or something that would be able to tell the story covering the entire period] based on historical accounts of people who experienced the Revolution.

You will include in your journal:

- COVER A very simple cover for your journal would include an appropriate title, your name, and a picture of some sort.
- A NARRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION for your character (a nurse, captain, minuteman, goat herder, shop owner, spy etc.). For help in developing a highly detailed and “round” character, refer to the “Character Sketch” handout that follows.
- An INTRODUCTORY PAGE [preface, prologue, etc.]
- ILLUSTRATIONS/PHOTOS/ARTIFACTS, etc. that are appropriate to the time period and in proper historical context. Each item should be accompanied by a short description of that item’s relevance or significance.
- TEN JOURNAL ENTRIES covering the period which discuss and refer to major events and people of the Revolution. Each entry should be about one half of one page long including information on the leaders or key figures involved on each side, the outcome, and the overall significance of the event to the Revolutionary Era. Be historically accurate and put detail into your journal entry. Do not write generalities (i.e. Today was a violent day. One hundred-fifty heads suffered the fate of the guillotine. It was disgusting). The journal entries should be sure to include:
  (A) conditions before the revolution began
  (B) key events during the revolutionary struggle
  (C) “results / victory”
  (D) “outcome” – what happens AFTER the revolutionaries take over
- A DETAILED FLAG of your own design to represent the group you are associated with or the side you have allegiance to, etc. Include on the back or in a caption a brief yet detailed explanation of the symbolism in your flag.
- A CLOSING PAGE [conclusion, epilogue, etc.] Epilogue is a fancy word for an “after word”. This is usually the editor’s or the author’s last word on the book which adds information and “wraps up” the work. This is your place to suggest to your reader the fate of your character.
- A BIBLIOGRAPHY of at least 5 sources [but no more than 3 Internet sources – and Wikipedia is not acceptable].
- The finished product should be at least 10 pages.
- The physical size of the finished scrapbook is up to you.

EXTRA CREDIT -- Optional

In addition to the historical scrapbook, you will plan and deliver a persuasive speech, monologue or interpretative speech. You have the option of giving the speech as the character in your journal / scrapbook or as yourself. Either way, the speech should be between 2-3 minutes in length.
Historical Character Sketch

When historians and scholars don’t know much about a certain time in history or they want a different angle on what happened, they often refer back to what they call a PRIMARY SOURCE. A primary source is something like a newspaper, a letter, or somebody’s personal journal or diary from that time.

A skilled historian or scholar would be able to read through such a primary source document and learn about what was happening during that time as told through the eyes of the person telling that story. A famous example of a primary source document from World War II would be Anne Frank’s diary. The information she presented in her journal gave the world a vivid and personal picture of the Holocaust. Our understanding of that time is much richer because of her diary.

Your job is to create a character who would have witnessed the events we’re focusing on for the journal. Keep in mind the time span of the Revolution that you choose. By putting this person in a setting and establishing a personal history, you will create a more complete and interesting character. Answer the questions below as a way to develop your character for the written narrative and drawn biographical sketch.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS: What does he/she look like? Does he/she have any unusual characteristics? What does his/her face tell us about their personality? How does he/she walk, stand, and sit? Does this person lean forward or backwards when he/she sits? Does this character have any nervous habits (pacing, nail biting, hang nail pulling, eye twitch)? Describe the person’s speech pattern. Does he/she speak quickly, loudly, softly, or only when spoken to? Does your character speak all the time? What kind of clothes or jewelry does he/she wear? What about the hair style?

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: How does the person’s surroundings/environment define the character? What does he/she do for a living? How does he/she spend his/her spare time? How old is he/she? When and where was he/she born? Does he/she have a nickname? What about his or her family? How many, if any, brothers or sisters does this person have? Does this person have many friends? Who are the friends? What kind of education does this person have? What are this person’s goals in life? What kind of person is your character? Is he/she busy, relaxed, pleasant, thoughtful, intelligent, loyal, courageous, or respected? What kinds of thoughts are going on inside your character’s head? Is he/she an emotional person? What do other people say about your character? How do others react when he/she is around? Is he/she contradictory, easily swayed, etc?

FUN FACTS: What is one quote from your character that adds understanding to them as a person? What’s the best and worst thing that’s ever happened to them? What is this person’s most prized possession?