Alas Babylon Book Project

Directions: Over the past few weeks, we have been reading *Alas Babylon*, by J.D. Salinger. Besides reading we have completed many small assignments to help better understand the novel. For this assignment, you and a partner will choose one of the following topics to investigate further, and then create an information poster to present to the class.

Topics:

- Identifying major **themes** present in *Alas Babylon*.
  - This group will identify three different themes present in the novel. Remember a theme is the central idea of the text, but not necessarily stated. It can also be what one can learn about life and human nature.
  - You will explain what the theme is and provide examples from the text that help the reader understand why your specific theme is present in the novel.

- Identify, describe, and briefly analyze the major **characters** in the novel.
  - Description and Analysis of the Major Characters. Who are they and what do they do? How are they important to the other characters and the plot of the novel?
  - Use examples from the text to help you with your description and analysis.

- Identify the different **contexts** the story takes place. Where does the action in this novel take place? Identify the locations and describe how they are important to Randy Bragg and the other characters in this story. You will also inform your audience about when this novel takes place and the events surrounding that time period (Cold War).

- Short **Biography** of the author, Pat Frank. Identify his birthplace and date, when he died and where, what was his childhood like, his experiences as a writer, and other noteworthy facts. Include other books he may have written, as well as awards or accolades received.

- Identify, describe, inform your audience about **nuclear and atomic weapons**. What are they? What is the difference between nuclear and conventional weapons. How destructive are the nuclear/atomic weapons described in the novel? Provide details examples and information. Lastly what is radiation and why is it dangerous?

- Given the scenario in *Alas Babylon*, **what supplies, goods, or services would the average family need to survive for at least a one year**. Remember, there are little resources available and many different families and individuals are vying for the same resources. You can assume that you and your family will have a house (home base); you can start building your stock pile of food, water, tools, supplies, etc. from this point. You can also include how you would collaborate with other members of your community.

- Identify, describe, and explain the **different military installations, war planes, ships, and submarines** outlined in the novel. For example, there are several bases and secret installations introduced to us (e.g. SAC, the Hole, and NORAD). Choose at least two from the fist list and one or two from the second to describe and investigate in detail.
Requirements:

You will use a 9” x 12” sheet of construction paper. Your poster must have the following:

1. A descriptive title that is the largest text on your poster.
2. One short summative and analytical paragraph that introduces your topic to your audience. After reading this paragraph, your audience should understand the basic idea of the novel (short summary) and your selected topic. One direct quote from the novel.
3. At least two to three informational paragraphs to aid the reader in the understanding of your chosen topic.
4. At least three properly cited quotes from the novel. Your quotes can be included in your short informational paragraphs.
5. Other research that may help your audience better understand your chosen topic.
6. At least three images and/or drawings that will aid the reader in the understanding of your topic.

I will use the following rubric to grade your poster:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title: You have a clearly visible title that is the largest text and easy to read.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summative, Analytical Paragraph: Introduces your poster and topic to your audience. It is informative and shows careful thought and consideration of your topic.</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quotes: Minimum three quotes from the text that help your audience understand your topic. It is correctly cited using the MLA (Modern Language Association Format).</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Illustrations: Your pictures/images/drawings relate to and help the reader understand your topic. Your presentation of the images are original, professional, artistic, and creative.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informational Paragraphs: Two to three paragraphs that provide support and information regarding your topic. They can contain textual evidence, will help your understand your topic, and support the overall purpose behind you poster.</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aesthetics: Your poster is visually pleasing and exhibits purposeful use of color. Pictures are artistic and creative. Any handwriting is neat and readable or typed paragraphs.</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td><strong>Total Score:</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
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</table>

Do your best and have fun with this assignment. If you have any questions please ask me for assistance. I will schedule some lab time for us for research and printing text. Save your work.

The correct MLA format can be found online at the Purdue On-Line Writing Lab. Here is the web address: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/
USE THIS SPACE TO HELP YOU CONDUCT RESEARCH:

Your Topic: ____________________________________________________________

One sentence summary of the novel (to help with your analytical paragraph):

Main themes, characters, events, or information you will present (5):

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

Direct quotes from the text (*Alas Babylon*) that you will use on your poster:

Quote:
Page #:

Quote:
Page #:

Quote:
Page #:

Quote:
Page #:

Quote:
Page #: 