

## Final Project: American Presidents on Film

**DUE DATE:** Monday, June 11, 2012 → Please bring your finished work to **class** and give it to Mr. Houser. DO NOT bring it to the Social Studies Dept. office or put it in my mailbox!!!!

### **DIRECTIONS:**

- Research and write a **4½ to 6 page essay** on one of the films listed below. Include in your answer the following:
  - A *brief* [about 2-2½ page] biography of that individual. Research them on the internet, but DO NOT copy or paraphrase anything **without putting a formal footnote on the page of that reference.**
  - Explain why you chose that particular President. Give SPECIFIC examples from the film to support your positions.
  - Based on your biographical research of the character, was his portrayal historically accurate? If not, how did it veer away from the truth?
  - Analyze the film's portrayal of your presidential choice in the context of the time period in which the film was made.
    - Is that particular president vilified? admired?
    - How does his treatment in the film reflect some of the major issues or events taking place in America at the time the film debuted?
    - Finally, compare the way your president was portrayed with Harry Truman in *Truman*, Lyndon Johnson in *Path to War*, and Richard Nixon in *Frost/Nixon*.
- You must have a bibliography of **at least four sources** [only half can be from the internet]. Include a BIBLIOGRAPHY with formal citation format [either MLA or Chicago style → use the style sheets I gave you at the beginning of the course for the proper bibliographic format]. Points will be deducted if you do NOT have this component.
- **FOLLOW ALL OF THESE DIRECTIONS "TO THE LETTER"!!** This should be typed and handed in to me using the following format [this will be the format for all typed assignments for this class]:
  - One-inch margin all around.
  - Size 10 or 11 font.
  - Use only arial or comic sans fonts.
  - Double space. [Do NOT double, double space between paragraphs!]

- Your header should look like this [it only goes on the FIRST page:

**Your Name**

**Course #**

**Date Submitted to Me**

## FILMS TO CHOOSE FROM:

1. *Young Mr. Lincoln* (1939)
2. *Abe Lincoln in Illinois* (1940)
3. *Tennessee Johnson - Andrew Johnson* (1942)
4. *Wilson* (1944)
5. *Sunrise at Campobello - FDR* (1960)
6. *PT 109 - JFK* (1963)
7. *Give 'em Hell Harry!* (1975)
8. *Eleanor & Franklin* (1977)
9. *LBJ: The Early Years* (1987)
10. *The War Room* - actual film of the 1992 Bill Clinton campaign (1993)
11. *Jefferson in Paris* (1995)
12. *Nixon* (1995)
13. *Amistad* - John Quincy Adams (1997)
14. *Rough Riders* - Theodore Roosevelt (1997)
15. *Primary Colors* - fictional telling of the Bill Clinton 1992 campaign (1998)
16. *The Crossing* - George Washington (2000)
17. *The Day Reagan was Shot* (2001)
18. *Frost/Nixon* (2008)
19. *W* - George W. Bush (2008)
20. *Reagan* (2011)