Out of the Ashes - A Bright New Dawn Breaks

The year is 2025, and a group of concerned people has assembled into weekly meetings because of their disgust at the way the world has declined in all aspects and is no longer a good place to raise a family. As a group, you have talked many times about how wonderful it would be if your group could go to an uninhabited area and live apart from all other cultures and design your own society. To your great surprise, an anonymous donor in the group has donated enough money to purchase a large plot of land that is far from any other people.

You will be designing your own perfect community by researching how different communities have lived in the past and live in the present so that you can write a proposal for how your new community should live. Use mistakes other societies have made as cautions for possible problems that might come with certain systems, and use successful systems to generate your own ideas. You may use pieces of things other societies have done, but the final project must be an original proposal that has never been done before in past societies.

You will be turning in a grammatically correct, typed written proposal explaining your idea for a system in the topic you signed up for. You will also have to present your proposal to our class community, and must provide some type of visual aid to help us understand your proposal.

Requirements

1. Sign up for a research topic.
2. Each group member is responsible for conducting research on how past and current societies have handled certain aspects of their communities, as well as sources that talk about potential benefits and problems with particular systems. Look over the handout I provide to give you some ideas of things that you might research to help you get started.
3. Each group member is responsible for taking notes on sources he/she finds, as well as write down citation information for the sources that will later be used to create a works cited page.
   a. Individual grades will be given for these notes.
4. At the end of each class period, each group member will write a “process journal” entry explaining what he/she worked on that day, interesting things he/she found, and frustrations he/she ran into.
a. Individual grades will be given for the process journal.

5. Meet back with your group and share the information you found. As a group member is sharing what he/she found, the group takes notes about ideas that might work for their design.

6. As a group, create a formal, typed proposal making an argument for a particular type of system. You must also create a Works Cited page with all of the group members’ sources included. The Works Cited page must be in MLA format, including alphabetizing the entries.
   a. You must make a claim about what laws/rules/structures will build a better community by providing evidence of how other groups of people have had success and failure.
   b. Your proposal will need to discuss the benefits of the ideas, and anticipate and address possible problems your proposed system might bring.

7. Prepare a formal outline for an oral presentation. You will use this outline to share your proposal with our class community, including the benefits, the possible problems, and how you will avoid or handle those problems. The presentation needs to be 3-4 minutes long.
   a. You will be turning this outline in after you give your presentation.

8. Create a visual aid to help our classroom community understand your proposal.

9. Split up part of your presentation so that each group member shares part of it. Points will be deducted if all group members don’t fully participate in the presentation.

Topics:

- education system
- laws, enforcement, and consequences (death penalty, life without parole)
- system of government, how leaders are chosen, etc.
- the economy and monetary system (how to pay for things used by all – schools, parks, government officials, law enforcement, roads), is community service required, etc.
- technological availability – television, movies, violence in the media, computers and social media, cell phones
• medical system (how is it paid for - insurance vs. publically funded health care system, assisted suicide, abortion, life support, medical experimentation on humans and animals, etc.)
• food system (production – grocery store vs. families responsible for their own food production, sustainability, genetic engineering, type of food consumption – meat and produce, vegetarian, vegan, availability to junk food)
• marriage/family (marriage requirements – premarital counseling, required time for dating/engagement, same sex marriage, divorce, reproductive system, population control, requirements to become parents, adoption, etc.)

Day 1
Go through project requirements, go through project rubric, groups meet to divide up responsibilities

Day 2-4
Database research, summaries/annotated bibliography, works cited (each person responsible for his/her own annotated bib)

Day 5-6
Groups meet, share findings from other communities, make up their own laws, rules, procedures, structures, start rough draft of proposal, go through components of a strong visual, create rough draft of visual, get visual rough draft checked off (before starting the final)

Day 7-8 – computer lab – type proposal and create visual (if it is computer generated, print out outline to help with practice), create group works cited

Day 9 - go through qualities of a strong oral presentation, practice presentations

Day 10-11 – presentations, group and self-assessment, final process journal