**FOUNDATIONS OF A NATION ESSAY**

Your paper for this unit will answer the following question that we have been focused on during our study of these authors: ***What are the values that created the foundation of our nation?*** We have looked at religious, personal, and political writing; what do they show about our country? Here is what your paper should include:

1. **Evaluate** our founding values by selecting four of the most positive values / qualities / traits / attributes our country was founded on based on the literature from this course. Each value should have its own page. You need to include at least two separate texts from this unit that support the fact that this was a founding value. You can have more than two, but two is the minimum. You will quote specifically from the text, then **explain** how that value is displayed there. You will also include a paragraph or two **providing evidence** of why that trait is essential to the success of American society.

**For each page, then, the format will look like this:**

Value:

Text 1:

Direct quote(s) + explanation in prose format

Text 2:

Direct quote(s) + explanation in prose format

Text 3+:

Direct quote(s) + explanation in prose format

Commentary:

2. Describe one value/quality/trait/attribute that has been negative for our society. What has made our culture worse because it was a founding value of our nation? Or, which value has been corrupted or abused in a way that has harmed our society? You will have to support the existence of this value with at minimum two texts as well. Additionally, you will format this in the same way as the positive traits, except you’ll obviously be including commentary at the end about how it’s hurt our culture.

One requirement: Each text that we’ve read must be represented somewhere as a piece of support. The texts include the following:

* Puritan background articles (consider as one)
* City on a Hill sermon (Winthrop)
* Of Plymouth Plantation (Bradford)
* Edwards’ “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”
* Franklin’s *Autobiography* and *Poor Richards Almanack* (consider as one)
* Patrick Henry’s speech
* Byrd’s *The Dividing Line* excerpt

**EVALUATION:**

The paper will be worth 75 points.

You will be graded on the following:

* **Explain**: Successful and effective use of texts
* Effective **evidence** supporting your **evaluation**
* Strong quotes selected as **evidence** and **explained well**
* Minimum requirements met regarding text selection and usage
* Final draft format

This is not a formal essay. You don’t need an intro or a conclusion.

**REVISION REMINDERS:**

Did you follow all style and formatting guidelines?

* each value on new page
* font & spacing guidelines
* follow model set-up from my website

**Value the assignment directions:** Did you follow all minimum requirements of the assignment?

Book Titles in Italics, short pieces in quotations marks (sermons, articles, etc.)

Commentary: clear and specific evidence with historical examples

No self-inflicted wounds regarding grammar, spelling, capitalization, etc.