

Your group will be assigned one of the topics below. The assignment is to prepare a visual presentation, approximately 5-7 minutes in length, which adequately covers the time period.

**Format:**

- Presentation should be made using PowerPoint, a Google Docs Presentation, a "Prezi" ([www.prezi.com](http://www.prezi.com)) or some other digital resource
- Use your textbook as well as **internet research** to prepare your presentation
- Each presentation should conclude with one or two **serious** clicker question(s) based on the topic
- A member of the group must upload the presentation file (or link) to the appropriate page on the class wiki before class
- Length: 5 minutes
- Presentation must be academically appropriate, informative and **NOT BORING** ☺

**PRESENTATION GRADING (COUNTS AS A QUIZ GRADE!!!)**

0 - 5 points (student) Actively participated and helped prepare the presentation

0 - 10 points (group) Presentation adequately covers all historical material from the section

0 - 10 points (group) Presentation is interesting, engaging and meets the time and format requirements

0 - 10 points (group) Presentation specifically tells why the information is significant to U.S. History

0 - 5 points (student) Actively participated in the presentation; gave full attention to other groups presenting

**Topics:**

**Group 1 - Baby Boom Generation**

- Define generation; discuss effects
- How did expectations change from one generation to the next?
- Also include: Dr. Jonas Salk; Dr. Benjamin Spock

**Group 2 - Growth of Suburbs**

- Discuss what led to suburbs, examples of communities, characteristics, typical life, etc.
- Who moved to suburbs?
- Did this contribute to the idea of "conformity" in this time period?

**Group 3 - Conglomerates, Franchises and Business in the '40s and '50s**

- Define terms and review material in section 27.2
- Be sure to include McDonalds; William Whyte
- Discuss economic effects on the entire time period

**Group 4 - Women**

- Roles of women in this time period? Expectations of society?
- Typical image of women
- Be sure to review sections 27.2 & 27.3

### **Group 5 – Television and Mass Media**

- Discuss how important the invention of TV became to society, politics (27.1), the economy and American culture
- How did this contribute to the image of American “conformity” in this time period?
- Also include: FCC; Edward R. Murrow
- Review major motion pictures of the 1950s (movies), including famous actors & actresses

### **Group 6 – Consumerism of the 1950s**

- What new consumer products emerged?
- Explore advertising culture and new businesses in this era

### **Group 7 – Literature**

- Major authors in this time period
- Emergence of comic books
- Jack Kerouac and the Beat Movement (who were beatniks?)

### **Group 8 – Automobiles**

- Discuss cars in the 1950s: economic and social effects
- Also include the Interstate Highway Act of 1956 and the results for American society and the economy

### **Group 9 – Music of the 1950s and Rock ‘n’ Roll**

- Have fun with this one! Include major movements, singers/bands/groups
- Elvis!!!
- Feel free to include an audio clip with your presentation

### **Group 10 – Urban Problems and Political Activism**

- Be sure to review section 27.4 (as well as political problems mentioned in 27.1)
- Include: white flight; urban renewal efforts; braceros; Longoria incident; termination policy

### **Group 11 – Conformity and Reactions**

- This group will review the topics for Groups 1-10 to answer these questions:
  - How can the 1950s be characterized as a period of “conformity”?
  - What contributed to the “typical American” image?
  - What reactions took place against the conformity of the 1950s?

### **PRESENTATION SCHEDULE:**

Monday, April 18, 2011 – B mod: Groups 1 through 7; C mod: Groups 1 through 8

Tuesday, April 19, 2011 – B mod: Groups 8 through 11; C mod: Groups 9 through 11