

It made researching a lot more fun, especially when having to write the narratives. Being given a character and having various fates makes it more interesting.

I loved the portfolio research projects. I would like to have done the longer one first, and then the shorter one because of finals coming down. Then also you don't have to worry about finding so many sources towards the end of the quarter when they may not be available.

I really enjoyed doing the character assignment because it was an excellent opportunity for me to place myself in the life of a person during that time period. The mix of fantasy and fact work worked out perfectly--I was hesitant in the beginning because I was unsure how the research project would go, but it worked out well in the end. I would prefer doing a project like this rather than a research paper or annotated bibliography. I would also mention the use of newspapers and microfilms, because they most likely would not now about such resources.

Was it silly? No I really did like the fact that we used a character. I think that it accomplished its point of making the research more interesting. Not just the research but the process of researching. (Is silly bad? I think creative things might sometimes seem silly to some people.)

Was it interesting? Yes

Does the mix of fantasy and fact work? I think that it does, because that is what people do when they write historical novels or other types of books. I realized how much the story itself depends on the author and their life experience.

Would you have preferred a more straightforward research assignment such as a research paper or annotated bibliography? Oh my gosh NO!

I really really enjoyed the character assignment because it put an interesting spin on the task of researching. It pushed me to find primary sources about each topic so that I would know what my character knew about the particular situation in 1918. It was very interesting because it made me pretend that I was my character back in 1918 and helped me to understand what was going on back then. This assignment pushed me to do a lot of research just like a straightforward research assignment would've but it also allowed me to be creative which made the assignment not boring.

I really like the idea of a scrapbook/portfolio project. It is more engaging and interesting. Papers get so boring and we do them all the time. Having a project makes the researching more enjoyable. I would completely prefer this project over writing a paper anyday. The mix of fantasy and fact really does work because you can put a face to someone that is living through the times. Then you can piece together in your mind and create a story, it's really neat to see it all come together.

I think the character assignment strategy was an excellent way to get us more involved in research. I thought it was excellent. I definitely prefer this type of research to writing straight papers or annotated bibliographies.

I honestly felt that the portfolio was the best aspect of the class. Really, the portfolio WAS the class. Without it, the class as a whole would have sucked. The portfolio was a great way of giving everyone different topics and making the research interesting. It was a good respite from the research paper/final essays that are standard for history classes.

I liked the assignment a lot. The way it was set up forced me to use the library in ways that I haven't done so before and it was also specific. A lot of research assignments give the student too broad of topics and this one worked out just right. I can tell that you researched everything before assigning it and I truly appreciate it. The only thing moderately "silly" was the diary part of the scrapbook, but there was no other way for you to identify if we comprehended what was going on with our characters, so good job.

I thought it was really interesting. When I was telling my friends and family about what I was doing in certain classes they thought that this was by far the most interesting set of activities for a class that I had taken in awhile. I have taken a few different history classes and all of them really well taught, but I could have never imagined a project like the one we are doing in this class. It was truly a unique way of approaching the subject. Researching this, along with giving us the necessary research skills, also gave us personal attachment to a character we basically created throughout the quarter. This was a very good idea.

At first I felt unsure of the parameters and what was expected. However, once that was clarified I had a great time. The freedom of creation rather than simply producing a research paper made the project fun. I thought that the way the focus changed by a roll of the dice added excitement. It was an effective way to get acquainted with the scope of the UW libraries.

It was silly but I found it enjoyable.

I found the character assignment to be a very constructive and creative way to approach the topics involved. The mix of fantasy and fact was a very helpful thing to do, as it gave enough space for us to constructively come up with some of our own ideas. I preferred this heavily over an annotated bibliography or a research paper.

The character assignment is great. While it is some work it gets students really learning how to search. I was a little rushed on the 1st Portfolio though.

I thought the assignment of a fictitious character in history as a reference point for research was a FANTASTIC idea. It helped make it interesting, almost as if it were actually researching as the topic was our "identity". This by far surpasses the conventional research paper or other assignments.

I liked it, I know personally, I had some trouble going through my topics because the searches were limited, and items were not very relevant, but it was definitely interesting.