**“Cracking the Case” Research Project**

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History is filled with unsolved mysteries. Your task in this research project is to choose one of those mysteries and present a **thesis** to explain it. You will research a variety of **primary** and **secondary sources** to uncover possible theories and the clues that support them. After you conclude your research, you will create a “Case File” that includes: background of the mystery, a **thesis statement**, and a collection of credible evidence that backs up that **thesis statement**.

1. Circle your assigned Cold Case

 *The Great Chicago Fire The Disappearance of Amelia Earhart*

 *The Lost Colony of Roanoke The Disappearance of Glenn Miller*

2. Turn your Cold Case into a question: What do you want to know?

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3. Visit the “Research Links’ page on the History Detectives Website to start your research. To access this page open Google Chrome and go to the class website: mskickworldhistory.weebly.com, click on the about tab, and click on the link to the “cold case research page”. After looking through a few of the **secondary sources,** write down at least two competing theories of your cold case below. (You may choose to return to this step and add more theories if your turn up something compelling later in your research).

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| --- | --- |
| Theory 1 |  |
| Theory 2 |  |

4. Use **“Your investigation, One Clue at a Time”** graphic organizers to take notes. Your research should include a mix of primary and secondary sources. Remember, these historical events are mysteries for a reason: the sources will present you with contradictions. Take note of discrepancies and base your conclusions on what you consider to be the most **credible sources.**

5. Review the evidence you have collected and answer the following questions:

a. Create a **thesis statement** that answers your original question about your cold case (refer back to question #2) based on the evidence you have collected. Don’t forget to use your thesis checklist from your vocab. notes.

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b. What pieces of credible evidence can you use to support your thesis? (Be sure your evidence includes at least two primary sources and two secondary sources)

c. Provide a list of **cross references** for the evidence you listed above:

d. Choose one alternate theory from question #3 and provide reasons as to why you discarded that theory based on evidence.

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6. Using your notes from this investigation create a Case File poster that you will be presenting to the class. Your poster must include the following elements:

 a. Background on the Historical Event

 b. Your Thesis Statement

 c. At least three pieces of evidence that support your thesis (must contain both primary and secondary sources)

 d. An explanation of each piece of evidence you present (you do not have to write this in your poster but you must include it in your presentation)

 e. Identify an alternate theory and explain your reasons for discarding it.

 f. An illustration (in color) that represents your thesis statement