

**Can You Help Me, Mr. Postman?**  
*Communicating Long Distance in 1850 and 2010*

**Culminating Project**

This final unit project will be completed within your research groups. Each group will be responsible for completing one of the projects listed below. The project choices are varied and inter-disciplinary, so there should be a project that will appeal to everyone. Each group may only complete one project.

Deadline: One week from day assignment is handed out.

**Project Choices**

**The Traditional Essay**

Group members will write a comparison/contrast essay of no less than 5 pages about communicating long distance in 1850 and 2010. The essay should be organized, have a strong, clear thesis statement, and provide supporting evidence for every idea from the research collected by the group during the unit. This evidence should be properly documented in the text as well as in a Works Cited page at the end of the essay.

**For Techies**

Group members will put together a power point presentation or a movie/video in the form of a how-to properly communicate via letter writing in the 1850s. The advice given should be grounded in facts that were uncovered during the group's research. There should be examples given for each rule/piece of advice.

**For Musicians**

Using Garage Band, compose a song that talks about key points of the group's research findings. The song should be set to music that is appropriate for the topics being mentioned. This choice is more challenging than it seems. Just throwing some key words into a song and jamming away on guitar won't cut it. Thought and care needs to

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be put into the composition and performance of the song. A typed copy of the song must be submitted at the time of performance.

**For Actors**

Create a play that gets across the various topics discussed in the groups research. The play should involve every group member in some way (scenery, special effects, acting, writing, directing, etc.) A typed copy of the play must be submitted at the time of performance.

**For Artists**

Create a visual masterpiece that somehow captures and communicates the conclusions about communicating long distance in 1850 and 2010 that your group came up with. This cannot simply be a poster or timeline – it is a chance to stretch your visually creative muscles new and imaginative ways. A typed rationale of why the group made the choices it did in creating the masterpiece should accompany the unveiling of the masterpiece.