DIY INVESTIGATION RUBRIC

Teachers: Are your students super sleuths? Use this checklist to assess and evaluate your students’ work as they conduct their own historical investigations.

Planning the Investigation

☐ Examined and evaluated material object to determine whether an investigation is in order.
☐ Developed a comprehensive list of critical questions to jumpstart investigation.
☐ Sought help from school, local, or professional librarians.
☐ Contacted professional and local organizations for help in research and to trace experts.
☐ Clearly formulated a research question and outlined researched method and scope of investigation.

Collecting Evidence

☐ Researched and collected information about historical era in question.
☐ Read widely about topic, both online and in books, magazines, and news sources.
☐ Conducted interviews with professional experts, eyewitnesses, community or family members.
☐ Learned about the time and place where material object was used or created. Asked questions such as: What historical events were occurring? What was life like?
☐ Collected primary sources connected to the historical era and event, using reliable sources such as the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the Smithsonian.
☐ Took advantage of available social networking resources to conduct investigation.

Evaluating Sources

☐ Inspected material object surface for dates, signatures, and symbols of authenticity.
☐ Examined primary source documents for missing pages or signs that someone has tampered with the manuscript.
☐ Demonstrated ability to distinguish between credible and unreliable or biased Internet sources.
☐ Verified author credentials or affiliations of interview subjects to ensure they are qualified experts on the topic of research.
☐ Distinguished between primary and secondary sources.

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Analysis
☐ Analyzed primary sources and read between the lines. What motivated the writer? Who are the other people mentioned here? Is there a meaning behind the words that can be found?
☐ Analyzed findings and factual materials collected.
☐ Demonstrated ability to think critically.

Drawing Conclusions
☐ Stated conclusions consistent with evidence collected.
☐ Presented and shared results using multimedia storytelling tools.

Use the blank lines below to add your own notes:

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