Writing Historical Fiction from an Interview
Using abstraction to tell the story of a major moment in history through the eyes of a family member or neighbor

Name: _____

Interview (homework)

For homework tonight or this weekend, you are going to interview a family member or a neighbor about a significant historical tragedy, chosen from the list below. You will write down their answers to the questions given, as well as two questions that you will come up with yourself. Make sure to get <u>specific details</u>!

Have your interviewee choose from the following tragedies. If possible, have them choose one that happened when they were close to your current age. (Circle) the tragedy they choose!

- Assassination of John F Kennedy (1963)
- Assassination of Malcolm X (1965)
- Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr (1968)
- Munich Olympics massacre (1972)
- Jonestown suicides (1978)
- Assassination of John Lennon (1980)

- Challenger Space Shuttle explosion (1986)
- Deadly Los Angeles riots (1992)
- World Trade Center truck bombing (1993)
- Oklahoma City bombing (1995)
- Columbine school shootings (1999)
- September 11 terrorist attacks (2001)

Ask if you have an idea for a different historically significant event!

Answers to the following questions should be written by you (the student) in <u>complete sentences</u>.

1. How old were you when this tragedy occurred? Who did you live with?

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2. How did you find out about this tragedy?

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3. What were your first thoughts and feelings about this tragedy? What did or didn't you understand?

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4. How did other members of your family, or other adults around you, respond?

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Now it's your turn to write two questions. Don't ask simple factual things – ask about feelings, reactions, perspectives, changes in your interviewee's life, etc.

5. Question:

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Answer:

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6. Question:

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Answer:

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This is the end of your homework **STOP**

Research on your tragedy (classwork)

Today you are going to do some research about the tragedy your interviewee chose. Use the sources provided and take notes below. You will incorporate some of these details into your historical fiction narrative.

Notes:

First draft feedback (homework)

Tonight you are going to read the first draft of your narrative to your interviewee. You should write down any feedback that your interviewee gives and any changes he or she suggests. Then, think about which of these changes you want to incorporate into your final draft, and list them below.

Feedback from your interviewee

Changes you will make in your final draft

Rubric

	Doesn't Meet Expectations [0]	Approaching Expectations [1-2]	Meets Expectations [3-4]	Exceeds Expectations [5]	Score
Interview	Interview not completed	Interview shows little effort Few details included Answers not written in complete sentences	Interview shows some effort Some details included Answers written in complete sentences	Interview shows excellent effort Many details included Answers written in complete sentences	
Research	Research not completed	Very few notes taken Notes aren't important relevant to tragedy	Some notes taken Notes are somewhat important and relevant to tragedy	Many notes taken Notes are all important and relevant to tragedy	
Narrative: Style	Narrative is not written from the perspective of the interviewee Many spelling and grammar errors	Narrative is written from the perspective of the interviewee, but that character is not well developed Some spelling and grammar errors	Narrative is written from the perspective of the interviewee, and that character is somewhat developed Few spelling and grammar errors	Narrative is written from the perspective of the interviewee, and that character is very well developed No spelling or grammar errors	
Narrative: Details	Narrative includes no meaningful details	Narrative includes few details about the historic event Details are presented as facts that do not flow well with the narrative	Narrative includes details about both the event and the interviewee Details are integrated into the narrative	Narrative includes rich details about the event, the interviewee and how the interviewee responded to the event Details are well integrated into the narrative and from the perspective of the interviewee	
Response to Feedback	Feedback not collected	Some unimportant feedback collected Feedback did not lead to changes	Some meaningful feedback collected Feedback led to some changes	Lots of detailed, meaningful feedback collected Feedback led to big, meaningful changes	
				Total:	
				/ 25	