

## Historical Context Research for *The Great Gatsby*

### Overview of the Project:

F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* takes place in and around New York City during what we call the "Roaring Twenties" that lasted until the Great Depression in the 1930s. The text makes a lot of points about and references to the defining elements of this decade, and so learning about it is important.

Each group (of 2 or 3) will be assigned a different topic to research and will be responsible for putting together a 3-5 minute presentation on that topic for the class. It is important that the work is done and the presentation well put together because your peers will be depending on you for the information you are responsible for.

These are the possible topics, which will be assigned on the first day:

- F. Scott Fitzgerald (the author)
- Women's liberation movements
- Music, dancing, and fashion
- Art and literature
- Spending and waste
- Leisure and sports
- Transportation
- Organized crime (prohibition and illegal activities)
- Moral revolution
- Marriage and family life
- Major historical events
- Politics and government

### Expectations and Assessments:

Expectations include:

- Sharing the work equally and being responsible (don't disappoint your partner!)
- Splitting the presentation equally
- Being on task while doing research during class
- Providing your peers with clear, organized points and explanations
- Good speaking skills for the presenters
- Good active listening skills for the audience

For the presentation, you are not required to have a visual aid or handout; however, it is suggested and would be greatly appreciated by your audience (and will get you some extra credit).

The presentation will be a major grade and you will be assessed both individually and as a group. There will be two grades: one for content and the presentation and another for responsibility and group work:

This is how you will be graded:

- Content: (60 points)
  - Accuracy of your information (30)
  - How interesting your information is (15)
  - Presentation is 3-5 minutes long (15)
- Presentation: (40 points)
  - Organization and coherence (15)
  - Voice (loud and strong) and clarity (5)
  - Eye contact (you can have notes but don't read from them) (5)
  - The presentation is split equally (15)
- Responsibility and Group-Work: (100 points)
  - You did your share (50)
  - You worked well with your partner (20)
  - You were prepared (20)
  - You used your in-class time wisely (10)