



**INTRODUCTION**

# **Counties of Pennsylvania**

**Web Quest**

**5th Grade**

**West Newton Elementary**

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## Introduction

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at West Newton Elementary School are learning about the history, geography, economics, and civics of Pennsylvania. To enrich their experience the students will be conducting research into the different counties of Pennsylvania. They will create a "presentation piece" to demonstrate and share what they have learned.

## Tasks

The following is a list of the tasks required for completing this Web Quest:

1. Write a formal business letter to the Pennsylvania State Senator from your selected county.
2. Create a map of your selected county.
3. Create a two or three dimensional collage depicting your selected county.
4. Create an advertisement to generate visitors to your selected county.

## Process

### *Letter to a PA State Senator*

<b>Process</b>	<b>Scheduled Due Date</b>
1. Brainstorm with the class and your peers what questions and information you will request of the senator.	Feb. 7, 2005
2. Create a 1 <sup>st</sup> draft of the letter using the business letter format outlined in your English text on page 160.	Feb. 9, 2005
3. Share your draft with one or more peers for feedback and editing.	Feb. 10, 2005
4. Revise the letter and create a second draft.	Feb. 10 - 11, 2005
5. Share the 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft with one or more peers and/or the teacher for input, editing and feedback.	Feb. 11, 2005
6. Identify the Pennsylvania State Senators serving your assigned county by accessing the PA State Legislature site and entering your assigned county.	Feb. 7 - 11, 2005
7. Select one of the PA Senators serving your assigned county from the list.	Feb. 7 - 11, 2005
8. Visit that PA Senators informational page and find their mailing address.	Feb. 7 - 11, 2005
9. Edit and create a final copy of the letter. The letter may be written neatly in cursive or printed from a computer word processor.	Feb. 15-16, 2005
10. Turn in the final copy for grading and mailing to the senator.	Feb. 17, 2005
11. Revise final copies as required.	As needed

## **County Map**

<b>Process</b>	<b>Scheduled Due Date</b>
1. Using the PA County History Website and/or the Official County web site identify: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Date Created</li> <li>b. County Seat</li> <li>c. Main Industry</li> </ol>	Feb. 15 – 18, 2005
2. Locate three to five of the major cities located within your assigned counties using the Official County web site or other county website or map.	Feb. 15 – 18, 2005
3. Using the 2000 Census Fact Finder site identify the following information for your assigned county: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Total Population</li> <li>b. Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2000</li> <li>c. Median Household Income</li> </ol>	Feb. 15 – 18, 2005
4. Trace, draw, or copy your county from the state county map.	Feb. 15 – 18, 2005
5. Show the information from steps 1, 2, and 3 in this process on the county map created in step 4.	Feb. 15 – 18, 2005
6. Add additional detail to the county map if you desire.	Feb. 15 – 18, 2005
7. Color in your county on the small locator map provided and glue to your county map.	Feb. 15 – 18, 2005
8. Turn in you county map for grading.	Feb. 22, 2005

## ***County Collage***

<b>Process</b>	<b>Scheduled Due Date</b>
1. Gather information about your county by visiting the Official County web site, PA Tourist web sites, magazines, clip art, brochures, pictures, and drawings. Information to look for includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Historical Places and Sites</li> <li>b. Recreation and State Parks</li> <li>c. Local Tourist Attractions</li> <li>d. Museums</li> <li>e. Landmarks</li> <li>f. Local Industry</li> </ol>	Feb. 21 - 25, 2005
2. Using the information gathered in step 1, create a collage of picture, drawings, artifacts, moldings, and etc. that depict life in your assigned county. Your collage must represent at least five different elements that reflect life in your assigned county.	Feb. 21 – 25, 2005
3. Distribute paper for the collage.	Feb. 22 – 23, 2005
4. Turn in collage for grading.	Feb. 28, 2005

## ***Tourist Bureau Advertisement***

<b>Process</b>	<b>Scheduled Due Date</b>
1. Using the information about your assigned county that you have gathered from creating your map and collage, create a slogan or text for an advertisement that encourages people to visit your county.	Feb. 22 – 24, 2005
2. Review and share your slogan with peers for comments and feedback	Feb. 24, 2005
3. Revise your slogan for final review and approval.	Feb. 25, 2005
4. Design and create an advertisement poster using your slogan created in step 1. The advertisement should reflect the best qualities of your assigned county and be connected to the slogan you created.	Feb. 25 – Mar. 2, 2005
5. Turn in your advertisement poster for grading	Mar. 2, 2005

## Resources

The following is a list of resources that are available for successfully completing this project.

**[Pennsylvania PowerPort](http://www.state.pa.us/)** - Official PA Website with links to the State Senators.  
<http://www.state.pa.us/>

**[PA General Assembly](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/index.cfm)** - Find you State Senator or Representative by county or by zip code. <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/index.cfm>

**[Listing of Official County Websites](http://sites.state.pa.us/govlocal.html?papowerPNavCtr=|30207|#30214)** - Links to all of PA's "official" County Websites. <http://sites.state.pa.us/govlocal.html?papowerPNavCtr=|30207|#30214>

**[PA History Museum](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/counties/county.asp?secid=31)** - County History and Information Websites. (includes map)  
<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/counties/county.asp?secid=31>

**[US Census Bureau Quickfacts](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/42000.html)** - County Population and Statistics from 2000  
Census. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/42000.html>

# Evaluation Rubric

## Senator Letter Rubric

Task/Component	Points Possible	Points Earned
<b>Format - Headings, Salutations, and Closing</b>		
The format of the letter follows the guidelines. The headings, salutation, and closing are correctly placed and provide the required information.	2	
One or two components are missing, incorrect or improperly placed.	1	
Three or more components are missing, incorrect or improperly placed.	0	
<b>Introduction</b>		
The writer's purpose for writing is clearly stated.	2	
The writer's purpose is included but is not clearly stated.	1	
The writer's purpose is not stated.	0	
<b>Main Section (Request for information)</b>		
The main section is appropriate for the writer's purpose, and a clear message is written.	2	
The main section is included, but the message is not clear.	1	
The main section is missing or the message is not appropriate for the writer's purpose.	0	
<b>Ending Statement</b>		
The ending statement is appropriate for the writer's purpose.	2	
The ending statement is included, but not appropriate for the writer's purpose.	1	
The ending statement is not included.	0	
<b>Grammar and Mechanics</b>		
The letter is free of grammatical and mechanical errors.	2	
The letter contains three or fewer grammatical or mechanical errors.	1	
The letter contains four or more grammatical or mechanical errors.	0	
<b>Total</b>		/ 10

## ***County Map Rubric***

<b>Task/Component</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
<b>Map Shape</b>		
Map shape adequately represents the county.	2	
Map shape loosely represents the county.	1	
Map shape does not represent the county.	0	
<b>County Background</b>		
Map correctly represents the date the county was created, the county seat, and the main industries.	3	
Map incorrectly represents one of the following: the date the county was created, the county seat, or the main industries.	2	
Map incorrectly represents two of the following: the date the county was created, the county seat, or the main industries.	1	
Map incorrectly represents all of the following: the date the county was created, the county seat, and the main industries.	0	
<b>Cities</b>		
Map correctly identifies three or more major cities.	3	
Map correctly identifies two major cities.	2	
Map correctly identifies one major cities.	1	
Map does not correctly identify any major cities.	0	
<b>Census Data</b>		
Map reflects the all census data accurately including: total population, median age, and median household income.	3	
Map reflects two components of the census data accurately: total population, median age, or median household income.	2	
Map reflects one component of the census data accurately: total population, median age, or median household income.	1	
Map does not reflect accurate census data or census data is missing.	0	

<b>Task/Component</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
<b>Locator Map</b>		
The locator map is included on you map and is correctly positioned and your assigned county is highlighted.	2	
The locator map is included on you map and is correctly positioned, but your assigned county is not correctly highlighted.	1	
The locator map is not included on you map.	0	
<b>Grammar and Mechanics</b>		
The map is free of grammatical and mechanical errors.	3	
The map contains two or fewer grammatical or mechanical errors.	2	
The map contains three or four grammatical or mechanical errors.	1	
The map contains five or more grammatical or mechanical errors.	0	
<b>Appearance</b>		
The overall appearance of the map is excellent.	4	
The overall appearance of the map is above average.	3	
The overall appearance of the map is average.	2	
The overall appearance of the map is below average.	1	
The overall appearance of the map is poor.	0	
<b>Total</b>		/ 20

### ***Collage Rubric***

<b>Task/Component</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
<b>Represents the County</b>		
Collage reflects five or more aspects relating to the students assigned county.	5	
Collage reflects four aspects relating to the students assigned county.	4	
Collage reflects three aspects relating to the students assigned county.	3	
Collage reflects two aspects relating to the students assigned county.	2	
Collage reflects one aspects relating to the students assigned county.	1	
Collage reflects no aspects relating to the students assigned county.	0	
<b>Total</b>		

### ***Tourist Advertisement Rubric***

<b>Task/Component</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
<b>Slogan</b>		
Slogan clearly reflects the characteristics of the county.	3	
Slogan adequately reflects the characteristics of the county.	2	
Slogan partially reflects the characteristics of the county.	1	
Slogan does not reflect the characteristics of the county.	0	
<b>Grammar and Mechanics</b>		
The advertisement is free of grammatical and mechanical errors.	3	
The advertisement contains two or fewer grammatical or mechanical errors.	2	
The advertisement contains three or four grammatical or mechanical errors.	1	
The advertisement contains five or more grammatical or mechanical errors.	0	
<b>Design</b>		
The design of the advertisement supports the slogan.	2	
The design of the advertisement somewhat supports the slogan.	1	
The design of the advertisement does not support the slogan.	0	
<b>Appearance</b>		
The overall appearance of the advertisement is excellent.	2	
The overall appearance of the advertisement is average.	1	
The overall appearance of the advertisement is poor.	0	
<b>Total</b>		<b>/10</b>