

Regions around the world: Learning contract

Name: _____ Date: _____

You will be studying the following regions this year: _____.
Choose from the options below how you will invest _____ hours every two weeks in this study. Keep a log of your time and how you invested it. You are expected to produce a product every other Friday to be evaluated by the agreed-upon criteria. (See the bottom of this document for assessment criteria.)

- Look at your region from the perspective of a **JOURNALIST**.
 - What current issues might you cover? Whom might you interview? Write at least 5 interview questions for 3 different individuals who might be in the news in your region. Develop an article using fictitious answers to these questions, but incorporating actual facts concerning these issues into the responses.
 - If you were a foreign correspondent for NPR, what 3 issues from your region would be of greatest interest to your listeners? If you were a journalist for a paper or radio station in your region, what 3 issues might be of greatest interest? How would these issues, the points of view on them, and the size of the coverage differ between these two audiences? Create a product to share your response.

- Look at your region from the perspective of a **HISTORIAN**.
 - What 10 events in all of history have had the greatest impact on your region? Justify your choices in a product.
 - Describe at least 3 events in local, national, or international history that would be viewed differently in any two of the regions that you are studying. Examples might be Columbus' discovery of the Americas, the Civil War, the Civil Rights Movement, or the discovery of the polio vaccine.
 - Study at least 3 sources that document an event that directly affected one of your regions. How do those sources differ in what they emphasize, the facts they give, perspectives, or significance of the event? What can you deduce about the writers or sources?

- Look at your international region from the perspective of a **U.S. AMBASSADOR**.
 - What do you hope to achieve in your region for the United States in the next 5 years? What conflicts might arise? What agreements or compromises might be initiated? What other countries or groups will play a part in the U.S.'s relations with this region? Write a letter outlining your five-year plan, addressing it to the leaders of that region with copies to the U.S. President.

- Look at one of your regions from the perspective of a **MUSICIAN**.
 - What kind of music is native to your region? What kind(s) of music would be currently popular in your region? How do the instrumentation, rhythms, melodies, subject matter, and style of indigenous or popular music in your region reflect that culture and differ from your own choice of music?
 - If you were to book a musical performance in your region in order to draw the largest crowd possible, who or what would you schedule for a concert, and who or what would you avoid? Choose your top 5 individual or groups of performers and justify your choices.

- Look at your region from the perspective of a **PHILANTHROPIST**.
 - You have \$ 500,000 to invest to improve the conditions in this region. How would you spend that money? Which issues would you focus on and why? What groups or agencies would you use to administer your funds in the region? What problems might occur, and how might you address these challenges? (For example, what groups might object to your help? How might the government and local people view your efforts negatively? What dissemination or transportation problems might have to be overcome? Could your efforts be misunderstood by anyone? Could your efforts lead to more problems for the region?) Share your findings with a product, which could include a PowerPoint or other media presentation to your foundation as a philanthropist.

- Look at your region from the perspective of a **BIOGRAPHER**.
 - Whose life story would you most want to write, living or dead, from this region? Research this individual's life. What original perspectives might you want to bring to this individual's story? Who might you interview to get information? Why did you choose this person? What four other people did you consider, and why would you not choose to write about them? Share your findings with a product of your choice.

- Look at your region from the perspective of a **MEDICAL ADVISOR**.
 - What are your biggest challenges in meeting the medical needs of the people in your region? How do they differ from the challenges that are currently faced in our country as a whole? What individuals or agencies might you involve in addressing those challenges? Where would you choose to begin solving medical issues in your region? Write a plan of action for what you would do, with justification for why you chose this plan. Be able to back it up with facts and data. Share your findings with a product, which could include a media presentation to a medical foundation willing to fund your ideas.

- Look at your region from the perspective of an **EDUCATION ADVISOR**.
 - What are the biggest challenges that you face in meeting the educational needs within your region? How do those challenges differ from the challenges we experience in the U.S. or in your own county or state? What individuals or agencies might you involve in addressing those challenges? Where would you choose to begin your efforts? Write a plan of action for what you would recommend doing, with a justification for why you chose this plan.

- Look at your region from the perspective of an **ARCHITECT**.
 - How do building materials, architectural styles, functions, durability, and other aesthetical concerns differ between your region and the United States or your local area? In determining durability, what kinds of weather conditions and natural disasters do you have to take into account? What kinds of natural resources would help or hinder your architectural freedom in using these materials?

- Look at your region from the perspective of a **CHEF**.
 - What main dishes would you serve in a restaurant that would best reflect your region? How would those dishes be prepared? Remember to take into account the availability of ingredients, as well as techniques of food preparation. What are at least 5 dishes that you regularly enjoy that would not likely be found in your region and why? Using ingredients readily available in your region to encourage the sustainability of local farmers and growers, create a new dish that could become the latest food sensation. What would you name it to give it local appeal for marketing?

Criteria for evaluation:

	Time and effort invested
	Originality of research and resources
	Originality of presentation
	Depth of understanding of content
	Amount of new information presented
	Evidence of critical thought