**Local Legends & Folklore Multimedia Project**

11-12 American Literature

Description: The literature of America is more than just classic poems and stories collected in academic textbooks. American literature includes and, in some cases, grows out of local literatures—folk tales, historical events, myths, legends, and lore associated with particular places.

Working individually or in pairs, you will research a local legend or historical event and present it digitally. *Local* means Crawford County and its environs—anything in Western Pennsylvania that’s reasonably close.

*Note of caution: Be careful about content, both in what you present and how you present it. You may certainly research ghost stories, true crime, unexplained phenomena, and such, but use discretion as these stories tend to sensationalize violence and paranormal activity. Talk to me if you’re uncertain about content.*

The format can be any kind or combination of digital media. The only requirement is that it functions as a standalone presentation. Some options:

* Documentary video
* Recorded interview
* Podcast episode
* Digital photo gallery with captions
* Narrated slideshow
* PowerPoint (should include timings and voice-over narration or adequate explanatory text)
* Website or blog (Google Sites, Weebly, Wordpress, etc.)
* Animation
* Illustrated story (graphic novel/comic book style)
* Your brilliant idea (just clear it with me in advance)

Potential Resources:

* Local historical societies
  + Crawford County Historical Society (Meadville): <http://www.crawfordhistorical.org/chs/>
  + Hagen History Center (Erie): <https://www.eriehistory.org/>
  + Heinz History Center (Pittsburgh): <https://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/>
* Books
  + *History of Crawford County, Pennsylvania (1885)*—available for free on Internet Archive
  + *Legends & Lore of Western Pennsylvania* by Thomas White—available from Meadville Public Library
  + *Allegheny Episodes:* *Folk Lore and Legends Collected in Northern and Western Pennsylvania* by Henry Wharton Shoemaker—available for free on Google Books
  + *In a Valley Surrounded by Hills* by Don Skinner—available from FBTI Library
  + Search Crawford County Library Card Catalog
* Online
  + *A Genealogical Tour of Crawford County, Pennsylvania*: <https://crawfordcopa.com/>
  + PA Power Library (especially the “PA Photos and Documents” section): <https://powerlibrary.org/>
* People—parents, grandparents, neighbors, local historians.

**Due date: April 9, 2021**