

## *"We Didn't Start the Fire" Project*

Billy Joel wrote the song "We Didn't Start the Fire" in 1989. He used names of people and events from 1949 (the year he was born) through 1989 (the year the song was written) as the lyrics of his song. This project has two components. You may choose to work by yourself or with a partner.

### **PART 1:**

Each verse in the song represents a different era of events in history. If you look at the lyrics which I have provided, these eras are noted. Choose an era mentioned in the song in which you and your partner are interested. Research each event listed and come up with some creative way to present the information. You may choose to create a poster, a Google Presentation, a scrapbook, a Prezi, or any other multi-media medium (must be approved by the teacher) to represent your era. Your presentation should include the name of the person, place, or event; the date of the event (the year is fine); a picture you have drawn or found online; and a brief 1-2 sentence description of its significance. Part 1 is worth 50 points. You will be graded on neatness, accuracy, and the inclusion of the required information. You will lose 10 points for each day it is late. You will have class time to complete this; however this portion of the project is due NO LATER THAN \_\_\_\_\_.

### **PART 2:**

Billy Joel wrote the song in 1989, so there are no events for the 1990's or 2000's. You and your partner need to create two additional original verses to bring the song up to date. You need to include significant people, events, and places from these two decades. You may include no more than two presidents per decade. Consider including the following: sports figures/events, famous movies/tv shows, actresses/actors, wars, politicians, popular songs/musicians, famous deaths, historical events, and popular culture (ex. fashion trends, slang words). You will want to interview other teachers, your parents, or family friends and ask them to share a few things that they remember as being important from each decade. Since the idea of the song is to provide the most important topics society remembers from the time period, interviewing individuals and getting their first-hand accounts will be invaluable to you! You can also search the Internet or your workbook for ideas.

After you have written your new lyrics, you need to create a PowerPoint slide for each topic you include in your lyrics. Each slide should include the name of the event, the year, a visual, and a 1-2 sentence description of its significance. You will receive class time to work on this. Part 2 is worth 50 points. You will be graded on accuracy and the inclusion of the required information in your PowerPoint. You will lose 10 points

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

for each day it is late. Your finished product is due NO LATER THAN  
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