

ORGANIZED CRIME RESEARCH PROJECT

“WHO’S THE BOSS?”

Assignment:

A ***crime boss, crime lord, mob boss, kingpin, or Don*** is a person in charge of a criminal organization. A boss typically has nearly absolute control over his subordinates, is greatly feared for his ruthlessness and willingness to take lives in order to exert his influence, and profits from the criminal enterprise in which his organization is engaged. A boss can be politically connected and their decisions and actions can affect many people.

Some groups may only have as little as two ranks (a boss and his soldiers). Other groups have a more complex, structured organization with many ranks, and structure may vary with cultural background. Organized crime enterprises originating in Sicily differ in structure from those in mainland Italy and the rest of Europe. American groups may be structured differently from their European counterparts and Latin and African American gangs have structures that vary from European and Asian gangs. The size of the criminal organization is also important, as regional or national gangs have much more complex hierarchies.

We will study organized crime with particular focus on the Crime Boss. You will research one of the individual Crime Boss’ from the list provided (should you wish to research someone not on the list please submit your name to your teacher for approval). You will create a power point demonstrating knowledge and understanding of your chosen Boss. Your power point should, at a minimum, include the following information:

1. Title slide

- Name (& nickname(s))
- Affiliation (if they are part of a Crime Family, Gang, etc.)
- Your name(s) and class hour

2. Early years

- Date/place of birth
- Information about parents (profession, etc)
- Early influences/key events (illness, hobbies, major experiences, etc)
- Personality (outgoing, shy, etc)

3. Career Years

- How they got started
- Jobs/roles in the organization leading up to their being recognized as a leader
- Key personal events (marriage, children, etc)
- Relevant experiences/influences

4. How did he/she become a Boss?

- What were the circumstances at the time of their becoming the Boss?
 1. What was happening in the organization
 2. Who did he/she replace
 3. Who was influential in helping him/her reach the status of Boss
 4. What was happening historically (e.g., was it prohibition, a war going on, etc.)
 5. Were there controversies during the campaign and election

5. As Boss

- What were any problems or issues he/she had as boss
- Who were key people in the organization
- Was anyone challenging his/her power or authority?
- What were the scandals and legal issue for this Boss
- Was he/she well known, popular or notorious

6. "Post-Boss" years

- What activities did he/she engage in
- How (if deceased) did he/she die (and when)
- What is the impact & legacy of this Boss (living or dead)
 1. How are they remembered
 2. Has the perception changed over time/ how

7. Bibliography

- List of resources used to create the power point

REQUIREMENTS:

1. In order to properly address all these points your power point should be a minimum of **8** **COMPLETELY DEVELOPED** slides. This **DOES NOT** include the title/bibliography slide & slides with pictures only do not count!
2. You may add or delete information you think is needed or doesn't fit BUT the general outline and contents of the slides should fit the outline that has been laid out for you.
3. You need pictures on at least 5 of your slides & the pictures need to pertain to what is discussed on the slides (for example, no funeral picture on a slide about a childhood home)
4. DO NOT WRITE paragraphs or essays on each slide- simple, quick bullets that explain key points- PROOFREAD- you will receive points for grammar, spelling, etc
5. You will choose any Boss on the list (if you would like to research someone not on the list remember to get PRIOR approval from your teacher!!)
*****VERY IMPORTANT: You need to be thorough- YOU are the expert on your Boss. Make sure to include KEY events! It needs to be clear- WHAT is on your slides & WHY the information is important or relevant to your Boss. Make sure your sources are reliable.***

6. NO PLAGARISM- YOU NEED TO USE YOUR OWN THOUGHTS & WORDS! Cutting and pasting will get you 0 points!

DUE DATE: MUST BE COMPLETED/E-MAILED TO YOU TEACHER NO LATER THAN 3:15 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

VALUE: 200 POINTS

GUIDELINES:

1. Must be a crime boss from the list – or must have PRIOR approval from the teacher
2. You are responsible for completing the work. There will be SOME time in class however plan on doing some of the work on your own time.
3. You will need a flash drive or to save your information to your student account EVERY time you edit your project.
4. Only 1 crime boss per class
5. If you are absent on a day we work on the project you will be responsible to utilize your own time to work on the project

CHECK LIST FOR POWER POINT:

1. Do you have the title slide?
2. Do you have at least 8 slides of content information?
3. Did you cover all the required information?
4. Do you have pictures on at least 5 of your slides?
5. Did you include your bibliography slide?
6. Did you proofread your material?
7. Is your information accurate? Can you explain it?
8. Do you have access to your power point via flash drive or your student account?

RUBRIC

POWER POINT:

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| 20 points | Was there a title/bibliography slide |
| 20 points | Were there at least 5 pictures included on the slides |
| 20 points | Was their evidence of proofreading (spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc) |
| 70 points | Did the power point include a minimum 8 slides of information |
| 70 points | Was the information on the slides accurate, relevant, cover all requirements |

BE READY BY
THURSDAY DECEMBER 19!!

