



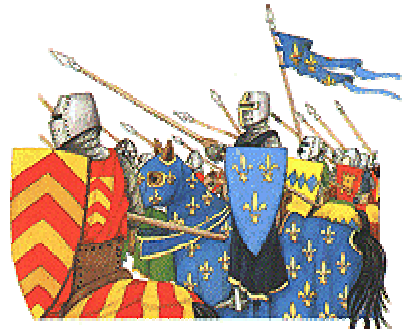
## **EARLY MIDDLE AGES PROJECT**

**You are a member of a wealthy family in tenth century England. The Roman Empire has long since fallen and feudalism is now prevalent in England. Your family seeks to become the vassals to Lord Whinesalot. As vassals you'll get land, protection, knights, power, and wealth. In return, you must provide the lord with loyalty, taxes, and soldiers when he is at war.**

### **The Task**

For Lord Whinesalot to choose your family as vassals you must first provide him with your family's portfolio which will include the following:

- A story about a heroic event from your family's history
- Family coat of arms
- A design for your proposed castle
- A map of your fief (which you hope he'll grant you)
- A code of chivalry
- An oath of fealty



### **The Process**

As a group, draft a family history on which future decisions can be based. Because religion played such a vital role in medieval life, be sure to address this in your family's history. Also include heroic events to depict family character. Read histories of medieval figures to get ideas.

Identify group member's roles. Use the links to find out specific information for your role:

- Herald: create the coat of arms (family crest) and documentary of historical events supporting the components of the coat of arms.
- Architect: design a model and floor plan of the castle, with supporting explanation for design decisions
- Cartographer: draw a map of your proposed fief and explain how your family will rule its subjects
- Knight: develop the oath of fealty and code of chivalry your family will swear to.

Meet regularly with your group to compare information, check for CONSISTENCY, and get feed back from group members.

Once individual tasks are completed, plan a family visit to the lord's court (your class) to persuade him to choose you as his vassals.

Each group member will have sources available to them to help them with their portion of the project. These resources are available in class, but extra research on your part is required.



## Group presentations to Lord Whinesalot and his court:

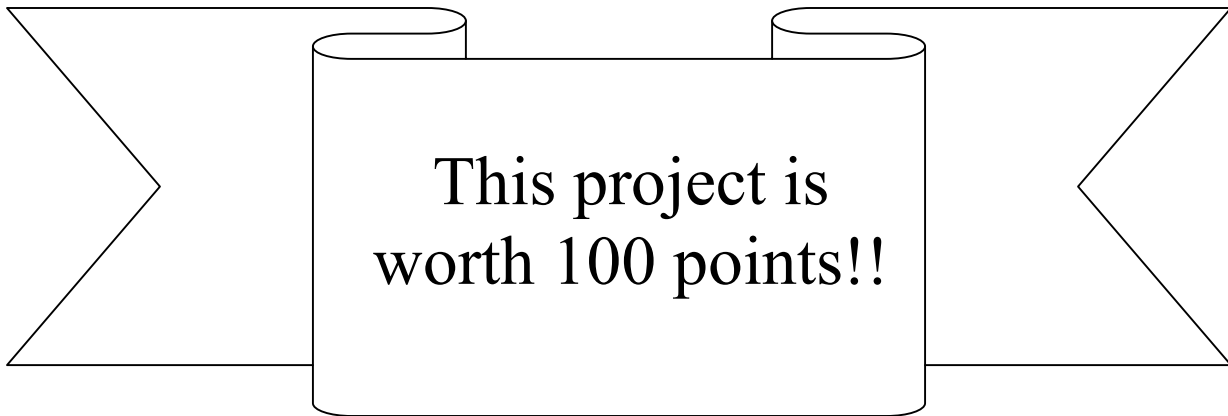
Remember to be PERSUASIVE!!! To do this consider the following:

- Capture your audiences' attention with visuals, enthusiastic attitude, and unique style. Consider using pictures, models, costumes, accents, etc.
- Be well prepared. Have all components complete, memorize your part, and know background information about your part so you can respond to questions.
- Be unique!! Look for unusual details to add to your part. Consider unique ways of presenting your information.

## Group Evaluation:

Your final product will be evaluated on the following:

1. Was there consistency between all components of your family's portfolio?
2. Was your presentation convincing, unique, and interesting?
3. Did your group work effectively as a team, supporting each other to complete all components of the portfolio?
4. Are all components based on medieval facts and yet unique and creative (not copied!)?



### **Heroic Story = 15 points**

Must be typed, 1 page double spaced, 12 pt. Font

### **Coat of Arms + Explanation = 15 points**

Needs to be on a poster board, colored neatly

Smaller version of your coat of arms needs to be in your portfolio with labels

### **Castle Design + Labels = 15 points**

Floor plan for a 2 level castle, external view on a 8x10 sheet of white paper with labels.

### **Map of your Fief = 15 points**

On a poster board, colored and labeled

### **Code of Chivalry = 15 points**

1 page, typed, double spaced, in portfolio

### **Oath of Fealty = 15 points**

1 page, typed, double spaced, in portfolio

### **Presentation = 10 points**

Everyone speaks and is prepared

