*Instructions:*

*• US II Choose a major event from the period of World War II to the election of*

*Barack Obama in 2008.*

*• US I Choose a major event from the Election of Thomas Jefferson up to American*

*Imperialism in the 1880’s.*

*\*\*\*Complete the following steps when writing your paper. Dates will be identified for each step.*

*• Thesis/Essential Question*

*o A thesis is the central, core argument being made by the person writing the paper.*

*The thesis should provide the research paper with a point, or reason for presenting*

*the evidence uncovered during the investigation of the topic.*

*o This is where the point/question is presented and then evidence gathered will*

*prove your argument.*

*o C, E, J: Claim, Evidence, Justification*

*• Identify the facts/information of the event using primary source documents.*

*o What happened? Where did the event take place?*

*o Conflicting information? Contradicting information? (Use secondary sources)*

*• Explain the significance of the event*

*o Include detailed background information. What was the background of events that*

*led to its occurrence?*

*o Why is the event important? Is it remembered as such today? (For example, how*

*much space does your textbook devote to the subject? Is it something you knew about before?)*

*• Identify and Explain the aftermath/legacy; continued effect(s), if any; impact o What happened as a result of this event – in the long run?*

*o How do you think the subject should be remembered/commemorated? o Was the event critical or overblown based on information gathered?*

*• Give your assessment/analysis of the event. This is where your thesis/opinion comes in.*

*o Why does this event matter? What is it that you wish to prove about the event? o All of your writing in the paper will be guided by this central question.*

*Remember, you are not only telling the story of the event. You are trying to make a point about the event, and must use your research to support that point.*

*• Conclusion*

*o Reassert your point (thesis), and summarize how the evidence you have presented*

*from your research supports your central idea*