March Madness 2013

It’s March, and that means it’s time for heated rivalries, thrilling upsets, and the menacing run to the Final Four. It’s time to separate the pretenders from the contenders... and we’re not even talking basketball. It’s time for the 6th Annual AP World History March Madness – Rulers of the World Tournament™. The tournament committee has scoured through 10,000 years of history, traversing the entire globe in search of the best rulers of all time. It has come down to this: 168 Rulers, 1 Crown.

Overview – the Tournament in Brief
You will assume the role of one historic ruler. You must fight, claw, and scratch your way through the brackets, in search of the crown. Each round consists of a ruler debate, from which one ruler will advance and one will go home. In a class showdown, one winner will emerge to seize the crown and claim the title, Ruler of the World.

Individual Responsibilities
- Write a biographical sketch of one historic ruler (see assignment worksheet). The biography must include the basic background of the ruler. More importantly, the biography must emphasize the significance of the person as a leader and their impact on the course of history. Biographies should be limited in length – less than one typed, single-spaced page. Be concise, yet complete.
- A rebuttal list of 10 bad characteristics/things about your opponent for the first round (The assignment worksheet is DUE MONDAY/TUESDAY).
- Assume the role of your ruler in debate competitions, seeking to advance through the brackets. Sell yourself! Become the ruler! In the debate, you should emphasize your own attributes, but don’t forget to attack the weaknesses of your opponent!
- Serve on the jury. You must serve as an impartial jury member, voting for the winner of the debates that you are not in. Vote for the winner of the debate by balancing the effectiveness of the presentation with the documented merits of the rulers.

Class Responsibilities
- As a class, you will work through your half of the bracket to the Final Four.
- The jury for the Final Four will consist of well-informed jury members from the halls of Burke High School who will decide the Class Ruler
- World Ruler will be decided in a Paper-Scissors-Rock contest (TBA) amongst the Class Rulers

Grading
Biographical Sketches & Rebuttal List (5)
First Round Debate (5)
Each round of debate after the required first round = free assignment card (as long as the student does not forfeit, refuse to debate, or shows poor showmanship*)

*McNair may chose not to give free assignment cards based on bad showmanship, poor debating, poor research or to students unprepared for the debate).

The Big Picture
- This is designed to be fun and engaging. Have fun, but don't get carried away. Let the competition bring out the best in all of us, not the worst.
- When March Madness if over, all of you will walk away with a knowledge of history’s most significant rulers.