Columbus Day Weekend: ELA Homework

Name: _____

Directions: There are **multiple steps** to this weekend's homework. **Follow each step** to ensure you complete all of the homework this weekend. See you **Tuesday**!

STEP ONE:

1. Read **and annotate** the Scholastic article on expository writing. It will help guide your thinking and prepare you for our research in the library next week.

STEP TWO:

1. Scan the index of *An American Plague* (Reminder: it's located at the back of the book).
2. Choose two or three topics that interest you.
3. Now look at how many pages are listed for each topic. Remember: the more pages listed, the more information there is on that topic. You want to find a topic that has enough research material.
    a. For example: if the topic you see does not have very many pages listed after it, there is a good chance there is not much research to support it. You might not want to cover such a topic for your project.
4. Choose **one topic** that you wish to cover for your newspaper article.
    a. This is the topic that you will research next week and ultimately write an article about.

STEP THREE:

1. Once you have narrowed down a topic, you want to come up with **three research questions**.
    a. Research questions help guide your research so you are not lost in all of the information out there. These should not be too broad or too specific. Use these to help get you started:
        i. What does my reader need to know about my topic?
        ii. What is the relevant time period?
        iii. Who are the key people involved in my topic?
        iv. What is the most interesting thing about my topic?
2. Write your three research questions below.

3. You will also come up with **three search terms**. A search term is what you will type into a search engine (like Google) to help get your research started.
    a. For example: My topic is yellow fever. One search term is: "yellow fever causes."
4. Write your three search terms below.