Anytime we travel, we can find a guide book for almost every major city or country in the world. For each, there are must sees—places that speak to a people’s culture, what they think is important for historical memory, or to a nation’s greatness. What trip to Washington would be complete without a visit to the Lincoln Memorial or to the Vietnam “War” Memorial or seeing Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London in London, England? So, your assignment is to create a guidebook for an ancient city of importance. However, we want to get a fair assessment, so your guide will look at a city or state in a specific year.

You may choose from among these cities or states:

Alexandria (Egypt), 1 BCE
Jerusalem, 900 BCE
Persepolis, 330 BCE
Susa, 500 BCE
Rome, 31 BCE
Athens, 432 BCE
Sparta, 500 BCE
Egypt, 1000 BCE (The only general kingdom on the list—it was hard to pick one city)

I will consider other cities, if brought to me by Thursday, September 6.

What you will be doing: In order to allow you to “present” the guide, you will be constructing a blog (on Blackboard), complete with pictures and text. You can also do video as well. Music or other sound effects are optional.

1. The blog will showcase important structures (like palaces or temples), public statues, or other important landmarks of the city. Your description for each should include where to find the place, its history and its significance.

2. Ordinary travel guides would also give a brief history of the country and city as a whole. Please start your travel guide with this. So, in talking about Athens, you would give a brief overview of its origins, the society as a whole, and even mundane things like average weather, etc.

3. Ordinary travel guides would tell hours of operations and cost (if you’d like to get into the spirit include these—use contemporary currency).

4. Include how the traveller should act—what should they do or not do to show proper respect for the cultural elements.

Rules of proper grammar, sentence structure, punctuation and spelling apply. After all, how you present is as important as what you present to someone who may spend money for what you are pointing them towards in these places.

Sources: I have some restrictions—you cannot use Wikipedia as a research source (you may go here and start your search for information, by using Wikipedia’s footnote links). Encyclopedias are compendiums of known information; as such they are not good for more in depth research. In this light, any Encyclopedia is really a problematic source. Many internet sources are great, but you need to be careful. Most .edu, .gov and .org websites are good, but you need to look at who the source is. Some .edu websites are student papers (collected as if a portfolio). So, be careful.

A. You must have at least 2 printed book sources and 2 useful internet sources in your bibliography and footnotes.