Dear Honey 8/24/26

Congratulations on graduating college

We are all so proud of you.

Your sixth grade teacher, Mr. Satell has been talking with us (remember him, he was the fat, balding one). Well, any way he convinced us that it would be a great experience for you to travel to Europe with some of your sixth grade friends (we never really liked your college friends anyway) for a few months, which will be good for us also because we rented out your room and the renter’s lease won’t be up for another couple of months, anyway.

Mr. Satell asked us to give you $3000, even though we are already broke from sending you to college. He said you should go to at least 5 countries. He said that at least two of them should be Eastern European countries (including Russia) so you have some diversity.

Now if we are paying for this we don’t want you just sitting around (like you do at home). You should go at least 5 sites in each country you visit (that means a cultural site not a place to eat, or to shop, or like a French model or something like that).

Now going on a trip like this is not an easy thing. I know that you think that you are all grown up and you are (I think I am going to cry). However, you will be thousands of miles away and I will be nervous so please prepare for your trip.

First do a GHC briefing. Remember, that is geography, history and culture. That will give you a feel before you go.

Write out an itinerary (or plan of what you plan to see and do). You should research the geography, history and culture of at least eight countries to write a country briefing to decide where you want to go.

$3000 is a lot of money so we want you to make an expense report we are hoping we can somehow write it off on our taxes. I know that $3000 seems like a lot of money but it will go fast. Be sure to include everything, including airfare, put down what restaurant, etc. and look up how much it will cost (you probably should include at least three meals a day, you know how you like to eat), your transportation (you might want to get a Euro rail Pass), admittance to cultural sites or activities such as a play in London, an Opera in Rome, or a bull fight in Spain. Also you must plan where you are going to stay. I hear that youth hostels are cheap. Also, I hope you will buy some gifts for your family. Be careful to convert the prices from Euros, Pounds, Rubles, etc. to US Dollars.

Please make at least 5 maps that include notes on cardinal directions, intermediate directions, relative and absolute locations, etc. Four should trace your travels over four days and the fifth should trace show your whole trip.

We are so excited to hear about your adventures so please write us a detailed description of what you did and who you saw. In addition, you know how I love poetry, please write a poem about one of your favorite places or things on your trip.

Also include a scrapbook with pictures of you and your classmates having fun at the various places you go.

Remember we love you and be safe!!!!

Love Mom

GHC Briefing

Write a report to give yourself some background before you take your trip to Europe. Include answers to the following questions in your report:

1. Create a map with at least the following countries labeled: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Russia, Spain, Ukraine, Greece and United Kingdom
2. Create a map with at least the following labeled: the Danube River, Rhine River, English Channel, Mediterranean Sea, European Plain, the Alps, Pyrenees, Ural Mountains, Iberian Peninsula, and Scandinavian Peninsula
3. What are some examples that demonstrate how location affects Europe’s culture, and development?
4. What environmental concerns do countries in Europe face?
5. How are specific European countries addressing specific environmental concerns (acid rain in Germany, and air pollution in England)?
6. How has the nuclear disaster that occurred in Chernobyl, Ukraine affected the region and other surrounding areas?
7. What are the major languages spoken in Europe?
8. What are the three language groups in Europe?
9. What languages come from the language of ancient Rome?
10. Compare how the location, climate, and natural resources of the U.K. and Russia affect where people live and how they trade
11. Compare how the location, climate, and natural resources of Germany and Italy affect where people live and how they trade
12. Describe the major religions in Europe (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) including when and where they were founded, who founded the religion, the place of Abraham in all three religions, their beliefs, and their holy books.
13. Explain how the literacy rate affects the standard of living in Europe
14. Compare the parliamentary system of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom), the federal system of the Federal Republic of Germany (Germany), and the federation of the Russian Federation (Russia), distinguishing the form of leadership and the role of the citizen in terms of voting and personal freedoms.
15. Describe the purpose of the European Union and the relationship between member nations.
16. Compare the basic types of economic systems found in the United Kingdom, Germany, and Russia
17. Describe major developments following World War I: the Russian Revolution, the Treaty of Versailles, worldwide depression, and the rise of Nazism.
18. Explain the impact of WWII in terms of the Holocaust, the origins of the Cold War, and the rise of Superpowers.
19. Explain how the collapse of the Soviet Union led to the end of the Cold War and German reunification.

Schedule of Due Dates and Descriptions

GHC Briefing (done individually) Draft October 19 Final Copy November 9

Itinerary (one per group) Draft October 12 Final Copy November 19

8 Country Briefs (per group) Draft November 2 Final Copy November 19

2 weekly Expenses Reports (per person) Draft October 26 Final Copy November19

Five Maps (per group) Final Copy November 19

Diary (done individually) Draft October 26 Final Copy November 19

Scrapbook (one per group) Final Copy November 19

Poem Final Copy November 19

Draft

Relax this won’t be graded. It just lets me know if you are on the right track

Itinerary

An Itinerary is just a list of the cities and countries you are traveling to and for how many days in each place. It should include the airline, and if possible where you are staying each night.

Expense Reports

Expense reports should include the costs of where your stay, what you ate for each meal/snacks and their costs, transportation costs, any activities that you do, and souvenirs and how much they cost.

Country Briefs

Each Country sketch should include at least:

½ page of Geography including the country’s location, climate, important land and water forms and any challenges such as environmental problems

1 pages of History

½ page of Culture

Maps

Include 5 maps that document your travels. Include notes on cardinal directions, intermediate directions, relative and absolute locations, etc. Four should trace your travels over four days and the fifth should trace show your whole trip.

Diary

Include all five senses: What did you see, hear, feel, touch and taste during your time in Europe should include at least five days?

Scrapbook

Pictures and descriptions of you and your classmates having fun at the various places you go.

Poem

Write a rhyming poem about one of your favorite places or things on your trip. At least 3 stanzas