Colonial Journal Rubric

Directions: You are a British journalist who has just returned from spending a year in the American colonies. You spent the last year traveling throughout the 13 colonies during which time you collected copious notes of colonial life in the English colonies. You will now use your notes to compile a complete and illustrated journal of your impressions of daily life in colonial America. You want your final journal to be published so that the people in the United Kingdom will have an accurate view of life in colonial America. Only the best journal will be published and sold throughout the United Kingdom.

☐ On a cover page, give your journal a catchy title, and your name in the form of “Written by....”

☐ Date each entry and use the journal to describe at least one aspect of colonial life. (Should be in the 1700s and there should be at least 10 entries overall)

☐ Include an entry for each of the starred colonial stations (those are: #1, #2, #3, #6, #15, #19 and #20) and at least three other stations’ information in different journals.

☐ Include well-chosen details in the narrative to make the journal more realistic (Sample on back). Use your notes.

☐ Include information on at least ten aspects of colonial life. The information should be written for an audience that has never been to colonial America and knows little about colonial life.

☐ Include at least five simple sketches or pictures you find online to illustrate key ideas that you mention in your journal.

☐ Use notebook paper or type your journal at home using Google docs. Make it look old if you want to bring in a touch of reality.

☐ Add creative touches to make your journal personal.

☐ Write a total of 500-700 words or two pages, free of grammatical and spelling errors. Typing is fine as well as copyright free images.

☐ Do not use more than three pages plus the cover.
Sample journal entries

“A Trip through the Colonies”
Written by Mr. Connelly

November 8, 1751
Over the next six months, I will be lucky enough to travel throughout the English colonies. I will be keeping a journal of what I see and share my journal with all my fellow English citizens, specifically the king, at home when I return to England. I leave now on a Native American trail on my way to Mr. William’s colony in Rhode Island.

November 18, 1751
For the past ten days, I stayed with Mr. Roger Williams in Rhode Island. He is a clergyman who founded this colony. He believed in land rights for the Native Americans. As result, many of the colonists who came into contact with the Natives had friendly experiences. As a matter of fact, without them, many of the colonists may not have survived. The natives have grown corn for years, and taught the colonists to grow and cook it. They also taught the colonists to hunt and trap fish and to find wild herbs used for different purposes. I even saw some colonists making special snowshoes from fur pelts. They learned that trick from the natives in the area as well. Overall, the Indians have taught the people here how to successfully live in this climate.

December 20, 1750
I left Rhode Island and I visited some folks in Pennsylvania. Relations with the natives are not as good for these colonists. I noticed the colonists were moving onto the native lands with absolutely no attempt to reserve their tribal lands. There were over 600 different tribes on the lands, but settlers were taking land like it was free and open. Unfortunately, the natives could present little defense because of the guns and tools the colonists brought, and many of the natives were weak with disease. It was really a sad site to see the natives’ way of life shatter as the colonists moved westward. Too bad not all English-native relations were as positive as the ones I saw earlier in Rhode Island.
Colonial Journal Reflection

Instructions: Write a one-paragraph conclusion about your thoughts on the colonies. It must have a thesis that answers this question: Are the colonies dependent or independent of Great Britain and its government? **After your thesis, include three to four sentences containing your reasons that supported your thesis.**

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Conclusion Reflection:
Questions for 1’s:
Based upon your thesis and evidences, do the colonists have the right to rebel against the colonies?

Questions for 2’s:
Which one or two evidences of yours are potentially weak or vague?
Do you have three different evidences? If not, what would be another one?

Questions for 3’s:
Is your thesis decisive, clear, simple, specific, and capable of being supported by many evidences?
Are your evidences correct?
Are your evidence logical?