**Expository Writing Task**

*Comparing Two Historical Periods Through a Portrait--Colonial versus Modern Times*

**Activating Prior Knowledge:**

During our study of the colonial period through Elizabeth Murray’s portrait, many of you were amazed at aspects of daily life that could be interpreted from a painting.

**Writing the Expository essay:**

Write an essay comparing and contrasting colonial dress, hairstyles, make-up, etc. with modern ways. Include evidence to support inferences, conclusions or generalization you have made about this time period through Elizabeth’s portrait.

**Organization:**

1\(^{st}\) paragraph........introduction to topic—use an audience grabbing topic sentence—including what you will be comparing/contrasting in your essay.

2\(^{nd}\) paragraph.......Using a topic sentence, describe at least 3 *similarities* between colonial/modern times in regards to the portrait.

3\(^{rd}\) paragraph........Using a topic sentence, describe at least 3 *differences* between colonial/modern times in regards to items in the portrait.

4\(^{th}\) paragraph.........conclusion—If you had a portrait painted of yourself, what might it reveal about you and your time period? Why do you think Elizabeth had her portrait painted?

**Remember:**

- Use transition words: Similarities—also, in addition, furthermore…
  
  Differences—but, on the other hand, in contrast…

- Check for periods, capitals, and commas.
- Check for complete sentences.
- Check for correct spelling.