Interviewing a historical figure assignment

1. Select one of the individuals listed below
   - Samuel Gompers
   - Mother Jones
   - Upton Sinclair
   - Ida Tarbell
   - Sam McClure
   - Lincoln Stevens
   - John Muir
   - Jane Addams
2. Research that individual, use textbook, Internet, and additional resources to learn about the individual you are interviewing.

3. Pretend as though you have the opportunity to interview this person. What types of questions would you ask based on your research? Write 10 questions you would ask. (NO broad questions, you would ask the “Average Joe” (NO what’s your favorite color, name, etc.) ASK questions that demonstrate that you did the research to find the answer.

So for example:

Q: Jane Addams, what made you want to help others?
A: When I was a child I was born handicapped and I have since devoted my life to helping the less fortunate as I can empathize with them.

4. Now, it is time to respond to those questions as the historical figure would. What would they say based on your research!
5. REVISE, REVISE, REVISE As with any assignment before submitting, be certain to use spell and grammar check. ALSO make sure your learning coach has revised once more before submitting your final project.

Do all of your questions demonstrate research of the individual?

• What do you mean “demonstrate research”? While you are pretending to interview a historical figure and while this interview is fictional your questions and more importantly responses must demonstrate that you did your research on the individual. The responses must include factual information, something that I can research to find the answer to.

• Did you type questions and answers? Using Spelling and Grammar Check?

• Did your learning coach revise once more before submitting?
Mock interview of John Muir

Q: Tell me about where you were born and your family.

A: I was born in Dunbar, East Lothian, Scotland. I am the third of eight children. We lived in a three story stone house.

Q: What were your childhood interests?

A: I would do a lot of fighting, either by re-enacting romantic battles from the Wars of Scottish Independence or just scrapping on the playground. I also liked to hunt birds’ nests. I would compare with my fellows who knew where the most nests were located.

Q: Are you a religious person?

A: I did have a strict religious upbringing. My family and I were members of the Presbyterian Church while living in Scotland. When we moved to the United States, we joined the Disciples of Christ.

Q: Did your family immigrate?

A: Yes. In 1849, we immigrated to the United States. We started a farm in Wisconsin which was called, Fountain Lake Farm.
Q: Did you attend college?

A: Yes. When I was 22, I attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I paid my own way for most of the years. I studied Chemistry as a freshman but never actually graduated.

Q: Did you write any books about your nature adventures?

A: Yes. I actually wrote letters, essays and books about my adventures in nature. Most of my writings were about my adventures in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. My work helped preserve the Yosemite Valley, Sequoia National Park and other wilderness areas.

Q: Tell me about the petition you filed.

A: I devoted my time to preserve the Western forests. I petitioned to the United States Congress for the National Park Bill that was passed in 1890. The bill established Yosemite and Sequoia as National Parks.

Q: What did you do after school?

A: I left school in 1864 and traveled to Canada to avoid the military draft. I spent months just wandering the woods and swamps around Lake Huron collecting plants.
Q: When did you return to the United States?

A: I returned to the United States in 1866. I ended up in Indianapolis where I worked as a sawyer in a factory that made wagon wheels. I got paid $22 a week. Things changed for me when I got hurt. While using one of my tools, it slipped and struck me in my eye. I spent 6 long weeks in a dark room not knowing if I would ever see out of that eye again.

Q: Tell me about your 1,000 mile walk.

A: In 1867, after my accident at the factory, I decided to walk from Indiana to Florida which was about 1,000 miles. I wrote a book about it, “A Thousand-mile Walk to the Gulf”. When I arrived in Florida, Cedar Key, I began working at a sawmill. I almost died from some malarial sickness. Eventually, I sailed to Cuba and while there, I spent hours studying shells and flowers and visiting the botanical garden in the city. After that, I sailed to New York City and booked passage to California.
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<th>Question 1: Demonstrates Research</th>
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<th>Correct spelling, grammar, punctuation (evidence of revision)</th>
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