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### MP4 Research Proposal

In this research project, I'm going to explore the major pandemics in human history. Pandemics are essentially widespread epidemics. Throughout recorded history, there have been a number of pandemics across the world. These outbreaks of diseases have killed millions and have harshly affected the human race. My purpose in this project is to show how these different outbreaks impacted the world, and also steps taken towards their eventual prevention. In a modern world where many people are forgoing vaccinations, a majority of these pandemics are at a current risk of returning and infecting us once again. I personally chose this topic because of my deep interest in both the history and science fields. This topic of discussing the history of some of the biggest disease outbreaks successfully combines two of my biggest academic interests. Also, one of my last projects on vaccinations got me interested in further researching diseases and by studying pandemics as a whole, it covers some of the worlds worst outbreaks through human existence. I wish to learn not only about these different pandemics, but to also apply this to future prevention. I want to grow as not only a science student, but also as a history one in becoming more aware of some benchmark events that took place in our history. I also want to be able to reference these events in my academic career and relate them to topics of discussions in my classes.

I am going to be examining some of the most devastating pandemics that have occurred in the world. Some of these include cholera, bubonic plague, smallpox, influenza, and HIV/AIDS. Not all of these currently have known cures and therefore understanding their history and origin is all the more important in discovering a cure. A pandemic is essentially the worst case scenario as far as infectious diseases go and by studying these outbreaks, it can help us better understand how they were previously dealt with and how similar situations can be handled in the future. Studying previous widespread epidemics give us good points of reference when looking at disease prevention.

Some research questions that I wish to answer in my project are:

1. What are common characteristics of a pandemic and how are they classified?
2. How did each pandemic eventually end and what was done to prevent future flare ups?
3. How did the deadliest outbreaks shape modern medicine and disease prevention?
4. What areas of the world do many of these epidemics arise from? If such a trend is seen, what makes geographic location significant?
5. What societal characteristics lead to these epidemics and how can changes be made to prevent future outbreaks?

To present this research, I will be making a video including a lot of visuals to showcase this information as almost a story. Using graphics, such as timelines and visuals from each time period will be especially beneficial in illustrating each individual pandemic. Essentially, each pandemic is its own part that needs to be explained and yet all of the parts need to fit together in the end. In the project, I will first briefly explain some of the biggest pandemics in chronological order and then I'll draw connections to modern significance and future implications in the

medical industry. Based on the 7-point checklist, all of my sources are authoritative, accurate, objective, current, and have coverage and value. In addition, they are all .org's and of high quality. These websites are backed up by major organizations: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, MPH, and History.com. These accredited institutions ensure that all the data presented in these websites is up to date and accurate.

My thesis is that pandemics are an ongoing medical issue that can only be prevented by understanding past significance in order to develop future prevention. In my research, I expect to find how serious the consequences of rampant pandemics are and how their past severity can help us develop better prevention methods to safeguard against these epidemics. I am going to prove that with proper policies in place, future pandemics can be prevented and I also want to theorize on how many previous pandemics could have been stopped. All in all, I want to prove the significance of pandemics on the human race.

Works Cited

- Editors, History.com. "Pandemics That Changed History." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 27 Feb. 2019, [www.history.com/topics/middle-ages/pandemics-timeline](http://www.history.com/topics/middle-ages/pandemics-timeline).
- "The Five Deadliest Outbreaks and Pandemics in History." *RWJF*, 23 Mar. 2018, [www.rwjf.org/en/blog/2013/12/the\\_five\\_deadliest.html](http://www.rwjf.org/en/blog/2013/12/the_five_deadliest.html).
- "Outbreak: 10 of the Worst Pandemics in History." *MPH Online*, [www.mphonline.org/worst-pandemics-in-history/](http://www.mphonline.org/worst-pandemics-in-history/).