**Flour Baby Project**

**One Week Project**

**Family and Gender Studies**

* **Parent notification**
* **Teacher and student notification**
* **Borrow a scale**

1. **Weight.**  You will need to buy a **10 pound bag of flour** (about $10.00) **and a roll of duct tape** (about $5.00). *Please see Mz. Hope if financial restraints create barriers.* To receive full marks, you must have a ten pound baby and it must still weigh ten pounds at the end of the week. Many students tend to cheat with the weight issue either as soon as they get the bag or throughout the project. /5 x 2
2. **Partners:** Are you a single parent or do you have a partner? Do you live together, or do you have shared custody? If you choose to have a partner, you can share the cost and the resources. However, as in life, choose your partner wisely. You will be asked to reflect and write about this decision making process.
3. **Choose any "coverings.”** First, you will 1) wrap your flour entirely with duct tape in order to create a tough “skin.” 2) have your baby signed by Mz. Hope. If your baby does not arrive with this signature at the end of the week, it means you have either lost or replaced or damaged your baby! This mark is the only valid mark allowed on the entire bag for this purpose. If the original bag is drawn on (such as mock tattoos, piercings, etc) or tampered with, points could be deducted.

Now, you can “decorate” your baby! What does it need? Look at pictures of other projects. Do you have any hair or baby clothes? Baby blankets? Diapers? Bottles? /10

1. **Daily and nightly check-in time.**  This is to ensure that, like actual parents, you are "awake in the middle of the night". You will have to email me between 3 and 4 am every night in order to earn full marks. You will also report out to the class everyday about any challenges or joys you are experiencing. You must leave your name and baby's name in the message. /14
2. **Baby care log**.   Create a word document with the following sections**:** 
   * 1. **Information**: Students create their own baby's identification. Names must be authentic, birthplaces must be real, and date of birth must be when the project has started: Saturday, April 23. **/10**
     2. **Lifestyle choice:** Are you breastfeeding? If so, you will have to feed your baby every two hours. Remember this if you choose to use a babysitter. Are you co-sleeping? Do you believe in “baby wearing”? Research each of these and describe your choices on one page of your log.
     3. **Timeline**: Have the students log what they did per hour, including sleep, verbal check-in times, actual school classes, after school activities, social time with friends, meals for themselves and their babies. If the student had any socializing, they must write details on where their flour baby was at the time. **/168**
     4. **Logs will be checked throughout the week.** You should be able to produce an up-to-date log, even during a surprise check. **/10**
3. **Rules within school grounds.** You will need to abide by while in and around school and other classes.
   1. No flour babies are to be in school bags and/or lockers. They must be in the open air at all times, whether a person is carrying it, on their desk, or in their lap.
   2. No student on campus can babysit nor store another student's flour baby for them.
   3. Students caught without their baby will have points deduced.
   4. **Other students and/or teachers can report** for improper caring. They have been notified.
   5. Points can be deduced for improper caring.
4. **Arrange certain babysitting rules.**
   1. Each student can allow one non-student to "watch" the baby for a specific time limit once a day. Remember babies have to be fed every two hours. Remember to pack all necessary supplies. Remember to return within two hours if you are breastfeeding.
   2. Each time someone else babysits, they must sign a slip stating that it has happened. Include this with your log.
   3. Students must log in their journal when the babysitting has occurred for all time slots.
5. **Weigh the flour babies.** By the end of the week, each flour baby should be exactly the same weight as they were when they were distributed or assigned. **Check for Mz. Hope’s signature.** **Check for damage.** Any damage, including marks, rips, holes, etc will result in point deduction.
6. **Reward points for a full complete journal.** All time logs should be completed up to the class time of turning the project in.
7. **Final presentation.** You will present to the class a powerpoint or prezzie outlining and documenting the entire process. Include:  **/10**
8. Pictures, videos, and commentary on the entire process: flour being bought, baby being made, coverings collected, babysitters, challenges, joys, etc.
9. Lifestyle choices: refer back to section 5B.
10. Responses from family and friends.
11. How easy or difficult was the overall project.
12. Reflection on single parenting/partnership.
13. Gender reflection: What role did your gender play in taking care of this baby and how did society view you?
14. How this project has influenced your thought processes around caring for a baby.

**Single or Co-parenting Reflection /6**

Write a detailed and thoughtful paragraph in which you outline the reasons behind your choice. Remember: not everyone gets to make this choice! You are privileged in doing so.

If you are co-parenting, describe the qualities you would like to have in a partner. Then reflect on how well your chosen partner in the class lived up to your expectations. What were the challenges? What was made easier?

If you are single parenting, describe your choices around this. Also, how do you think your experience compared with that of the “co-parenters” in the class? What additional issues did you face?

**Lifestyle Choices Reflection /6**

What is co-sleeping and did you decide to take that option? Why or why not? What are the pros and cons of breastfeeding? Did you decide to take that option? Why or why not? What is “baby wearing” and what did you decide around that? If you are not going to carry your baby everywhere, how did you transport it?

**Babysitting Reflection /6**

Spend some time researching babysitters. Who is advertising their services? What qualifications would you want your babysitter to have? What are you looking for in someone who will care for your baby? Remember that any damage to your baby will result in marks being deducted from your grade. If you chose to use babysitters, what questions did you ask of them? What did you have to prepare? Did they do everything you wanted them to do?

**Gender Reflection /6**

How do you think your gender affected your decisions and your process? How were you perceived by society?