**Project Description: 6th Grade Chinese Culture Study**

**Objective:**

Students will explore an aspect of Chinese culture in-depth, presenting their findings through a well-researched and engaging presentation. This project aims to broaden students' understanding of Chinese culture, comparing historical and modern perspectives, and examining its influence both locally and globally.

**Project Requirements:**

* Can you work with a partner? Yes, but just one partner.
* Can you work alone? Definitely!
* Presentation Length: 10-15 minutes
* Slides: 10 slides, showcasing extensive research and analysis on the chosen topic.
* Expertise: Present yourself as an expert on the topic. Explain at the beginning why you chose this specific aspect of Chinese culture.
* Engagement: Start with 3 open-ended questions to engage the audience and spark curiosity. Conclude with a discussion or an interactive activity (e.g., Kahoot) to review and summarize key points.
* Video Embedding: Incorporate one relevant video (no longer than 2 minutes) to complement your presentation.
* Perspectives: Address different viewpoints on the topic, including both positive and negative aspects, through a critical lens.
* Comparative Analysis: Compare and contrast various elements such as past vs. present, East vs. West, China vs. its neighbors, etc.
* Relevance: On the last slide, explain the significance of your topic in today’s world, making connections to the audience's life or global society.

**Rubric (Each Part 25%):**

1. Engagement:

* Excellent (A): The topic is fascinating, and the presenter successfully interacts with the audience, making the learning process exciting.
* Good (B): The topic is interesting with some interactive elements, but audience engagement could be improved.
* Needs Improvement (C): The topic is chosen lacks engagement or the presentation fails to involve the audience adequately.

2. Presentation:

* Excellent (A): The presenter is confident, with clear and expressive voice modulation. The presentation flows naturally, making it easy for the audience to follow.
* Good (B): The presenter is mostly confident, with minor issues in clarity or flow.
* Needs Improvement (C): The presentation lacks confidence, clarity, or coherence, making it difficult to follow.

3. Slides:

* Excellent (A): Slides are visually appealing and informative, enhancing the presentation’s value. They are well-organized, with a balance of text and visuals.
* Good (B): Slides are informative with some visual appeal but could be better organized or designed.
* Needs Improvement (C): Slides lack visual appeal or are cluttered with too much information, detracting from the presentation's effectiveness.

4. Information:

* Excellent (A): Shows extensive research and deep analysis, incorporating different perspectives and specific examples (e.g., famous Chinese or Chinese American people, cities, holidays, technological collaborations, etc.).
* Good (B): Shows a good level of research with some analysis and examples, but lacks depth in perspectives or specificity in examples.
* Needs Improvement (C): The presentation lacks research depth, analysis, and specific examples, failing to provide a comprehensive view of the topic.

**Topics for Consideration (but not limited to):**

1) Famous Chinese or Chinese American Individuals and Their Impacts, such as

* Jack Ma: Founder of Alibaba Group, he has revolutionized e-commerce and digital payment systems in China and globally, impacting how businesses operate worldwide.
* I.M. Pei: A renowned Chinese American architect whose works include the iconic Louvre Pyramid in Paris, blending modern architecture with historical elements.
* Yao Ming: Former professional basketball player who played for the Houston Rockets, significantly contributing to the NBA's popularity in China.

2) Major Cities or Historical Sites in China and Their Significance

* Beijing and the Great Wall: Beijing, the capital city, is home to historical sites like the Forbidden City and the nearby Great Wall, symbolizing China's rich history and architectural ingenuity.
* Shanghai and The Bund: Shanghai represents China's economic boom and modernization, with The Bund showcasing colonial-era buildings alongside modern skyscrapers.
* Xi'an and the Terracotta Army: Xi'an, one of the oldest cities in China, is famous for the Terracotta Army, representing the funeral art of the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang.

3) Chinese Festivals and Holidays: Traditions and Modern Practices

* Chinese New Year: The most significant festival in China, marking the beginning of the lunar new year, characterized by family reunions, traditional foods, and lion dances.
* Mid-Autumn Festival: Celebrated with mooncakes and lanterns, it symbolizes family reunion and harmony.
* Dragon Boat Festival: Known for dragon boat races and eating zongzi, it commemorates the patriot poet Qu Yuan.

4) Sino-American Technological Collaborations: Opportunities and Challenges

* Clean Energy Initiatives: Collaborations in solar, wind, and other renewable energy technologies, aiming to tackle climate change while facing challenges in intellectual property and market access.
* Artificial Intelligence (AI) and 5G: Joint research and development in AI and 5G technologies, navigating through concerns over cybersecurity and data privacy.

5) Transportation, Fashion, Education, Etc.: Evolutions and Comparisons

* Transportation: The evolution from bicycles to high-speed trains like the Maglev in Shanghai, showcasing rapid advancements in public transportation.
* Fashion: The transition from traditional garments like the qipao to modern Chinese fashion designers making waves in global fashion weeks, reflecting the blend of tradition and modernity.
* Education: Comparisons between the rigorous Chinese educational system focused on exams and the more holistic approach in American education, highlighting the differences in educational philosophies and outcomes.

6) Food: The Culinary Journey of China

* Regional Cuisines: China's vast and diverse landscape offers a variety of regional cuisines, each with its unique flavors and cooking techniques. Examples include:
* Sichuan Cuisine: Famous for its bold flavors, particularly the pungency and spiciness resulting from liberal use of garlic and chili peppers, as well as the unique flavor of Sichuan peppercorn.
* Cantonese Cuisine: Known for its emphasis on preserving the natural flavor of the ingredients, featuring a wide variety of seafood dishes and dim sum.
* Shandong Cuisine: One of the oldest and most refined cuisines in China, known for its emphasis on freshness, aroma, and crispness.
* Street Food: The culture of street food in cities like Shanghai and Beijing, offering quick, delicious, and affordable meals that reflect the everyday life of local residents. Popular items include baozi (steamed buns), jianbing (Chinese crepes), and various noodle dishes.

7) Chinese Animals: Symbolism and Conservation

* Giant Panda: A symbol of peace and friendship, the giant panda is native to China and is often seen in Chinese art and culture. It also represents China's efforts in wildlife conservation.
* Chinese Dragon: Though mythical, the dragon plays a crucial role in Chinese culture, symbolizing power, strength, and good luck. It is a common motif in festivals and art.
* Siberian Tiger: Native to the northeastern part of China, the Siberian tiger represents bravery and is an important figure in Chinese mythology and folklore.
* Golden Snub-nosed Monkey: Endemic to China, this species reflects the biodiversity of China's mountainous regions and the importance of habitat conservation.

8) Chinese Traditional Clothing - Fashion

* Qipao (Cheongsam): A traditional dress for Chinese women that evolved to its modern form in the 20th century, known for its elegance and simplicity. It has become a symbol of Chinese fashion globally.
* Hanfu: Traditional attire of the Han Chinese people, characterized by flowing robes and intricate designs, reflecting China's dynastic histories. There's a growing movement to revive Hanfu as a way to connect with Chinese heritage.
* Tangzhuang: A type of jacket that gained popularity worldwide after the 2001 APEC meeting. It draws inspiration from the Qing Dynasty's Manchu clothing but incorporates modern elements and is worn by both men and women.
* Zhuangshan: A traditional garment for Chinese men, featuring a straight collar and buttons down the front, often seen during formal occasions and historical dramas.

9) Chinese Folk Art

* Paper Cutting (Jianzhi): An ancient Chinese art form that involves cutting intricate designs from paper. It is traditionally used for decoration and given as gifts during celebrations and festivals.
* Chinese Calligraphy: More than just a form of writing, calligraphy is considered a high art in Chinese culture. It's a way to express one's emotions and personality through the brush's strokes and the composition of characters.
* Cloisonné: An ancient technique for decorating metalwork objects, in recent centuries using vitreous enamel. It's known for its vibrant colors and intricate patterns, often depicting traditional Chinese motifs like dragons and lotuses.

**Project Submission Guide:**

🐼 Creating Your Project:

* First off, gather all your cool facts, pictures, and ideas and put them together in a Google Slides presentation. Make it colorful, make it fun, and make sure it's packed with interesting stuff!

🎨 Sharing Your Masterpiece:

* Once you've got your slides all set, you'll share them with me. Here's the magic email you'll need: wliu@towerhill.org. Just go to your Google Slides, click on the "Share" button, and type in that email to send it over.

📅 Deadline Countdown:

* Keep an eye on the calendar! Your project is due on March 4, 2024. That gives you plenty of time to make it as amazing as possible.

🗓️ Presentation Day:

* Get ready to shine! You'll be assigned a special day to present your project to the class. It's your time to be the teacher and tell us all about the cool stuff you've learned.

**Remember, this isn't just any project—it's a journey through Chinese culture that you're going to guide us on. So, grab your explorer hat and let's see what incredible things you'll discover! 🏮🎏🐉**