

Journal Writing Assignment: Commodore Perry and the Black Ship Scrolls  
Niskayuna High School, Niskayuna Central School District, Niskayuna, New York  
World Connections: An Interdisciplinary 10<sup>th</sup> grade class  
February 2005

Catherine Snyder, Teacher

Directions:

After researching the Black Ship Scrolls in class and on the web:

- choose a person from the expedition to use for a journal writing assignment
- using your character's point of view, write 3-5 journal entries about the expedition's adventures in Japan
- in your journal include evidence of the historical context and major events happening in Japanese history
- convince the reader that you have a thorough understanding of the impact this event had on Japanese history

Possible characters:

Commodore Matthew Perry  
Captain of the Fleet, Henry A. Adams  
Sam Patch  
Chinese Sailor (choose a name)  
African American Sailor (choose a name)  
Dr. James Morrow  
S. Wells Williams (China expert and translator)  
Eliphalet M. Brown, Jr. (daguerreotypist)  
William Heine (artist)  
A Japanese civilian, diplomat, etc. (choose a name)

If you would like to create a character not on the list, just ask!

Make your journal entry as believable as possible. Use the information in the class handouts and the website to convince the reader of the authenticity of your writing. Read excerpts from the actual journals of those on the Perry Expedition at:

<http://dl.lib.brown.edu/japan/accounts.html>

See rubric for specific grading criteria.