**Avatar Assignment**

**Objective:** Students will **critically think** about human impacts on ecosystems and the ethics and impacts of colonization. Students will be able to **communicate** key concepts, ideas, and perspectives by actively participating **in a formal debate** that **explores** the following **Big Question:**.

*Should humans actively explore other planets in order to colonize them?*

**Task:** You are team of explorers from planet earth (Captain, Chief Science Officer, Cultural Anthropologist). You are tasked with finding a new planet, or moon to colonize and you have now arrived at a possible new world. You are to keep a Video log (Vlog) about your findings on this new world. You will have to document the interactions within the ecosystem and **predict** the impact humans will have. You will also have to **justify** decisions you make as to whether or not humans should colonize this planet. Use your knowledge of European colonization of North America and **compare** it to the potential colonization of this planet.

**Individual Requirements:**

**LA:** You will have to write from the point of view of one of explorers. You will consider what motivates your character, why your character makes the choices they make and how your character will change on his or her journey. Your Vlogs will tell this story. Even though you will create the story with your group you are responsible for your character’s Vlogs and how your character contributes to the evolution of the conflict in your stories. You will also have to write a persuasive argument for the final presentation/debate as to why or why not people should colonize this new world.

**Social-** You will compare and contrast the exploration and potential colonization of your new world to French and British exploration and colonization of Canada. You will consider the social, political, economic, and cultural impacts of potential colonization of your world. As we talk about European exploration and colonization of North America you will have to use this information to help you decide whether or not to colonize your new world.

**Science-** You will need to show your understanding of interactions within ecosystems and natural cycles in a portrait of your planet's ecosystem. You will paint and describe your ecosystem in detail and include all the concepts you cover in science class around this topic. You will also consider the Human impacts on the ecosystem and use the scientific knowledge gained to inform your persuasive argument.

**By doing these three tasks in their respective subjects you will, as a group, respond to the Big Question:**

*Should humans actively explore other planets in order to colonize them?*