

# HISTORY 11

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Due Date: Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>

## Reading Material:

[http://www.kirby.org/page\\_attachments/0000/0601/History\\_11\\_Summer\\_Reading\\_Assignment\\_.pdf](http://www.kirby.org/page_attachments/0000/0601/History_11_Summer_Reading_Assignment_.pdf)

## Instructions:

Use the URL above to download a digital copy of the reading material. Read the compilation of Colonial poems and diaries and answer the following questions. Please devote at least one well-developed paragraph to each of the following topics:

### Section 1: Benjamin Wadsworth, *A Well-Ordered Family* (1712)

1. In what ways is this advice similar to the advice that married couples might receive today?
2. In what ways is it different?

### Section 2: Poems by Anne Bradstreet

1. Who is Bradstreet addressing in the second poem?
2. Why is she writing a poem about death just before giving birth?
3. Does the Bradstreet marriage seem like the sort that Wadsworth would approve of?
4. Does anything about this marriage surprise you?

### Sections 4-7: William Byrd's *Diary*, Martha Ballard's *Diary*, Cotton Mather's *Diary*, Samuel Sewall's *Diary*

(Refer to specific diarists and dates in your answers.)

1. What sorts of meat, vegetables, grains, fruits, sweets, and beverages do the diarists mention eating or drinking?
2. What do the diarists do for fun or leisure?
3. What types of transportation do the diarists mention using?
4. What can you conclude about death from the various diaries? (Think about frequency of death, age at death, causes of death, and funeral practices.)
5. What can you tell about childbirth and the raising of children?
6. What can you tell about medical care?
7. What can you tell about marriage and courtship?
8. What role does religion appear to play in the lives of the diarists?
9. Which diarists appear most concerned about the weather?
10. How do the diarists respond to the deaths of loved ones?
11. Which of the diarists seems like the nicest person? Which seems least likeable? Why?

### Section 8: Washington's "Rules of Civility"

1. Historians dealing with etiquette books or lists make the assumption that if an author bothered to make a rule about some sort of behavior, it was probably because a fair number of people were behaving that way and needed to be reprovved. Based on this assumption, what are some of the more distasteful things that mid-eighteenth-century people were doing?
2. Give examples of at least three rules that demonstrate how important social and economic class was in British society at the time.
3. Which of the rules surprises you most?
4. Which three rules do you think would be best to follow in your own life?