**Native American DBQ: Document-Based Questions**

Document A – Chief Seattle’s Treaty Oration

1. There is a significant time gap between the speech and when the column was published. How might this make the column less valid?

1. Chief Seattle mentions how life seems to be circular by mentioning: “Tribe follows tribe, and nation follows nation, like the waves of the sea.” Where might this repetitive rise and fall of nations and peoples be found elsewhere in history? List some examples.

Document B – Wild West Show materials

1. What details from these Wild West show scenes reflect attitudes Americans held about Native Americans after this event?

1. Why would Americans want to memorialize this loss? Why would Native Americans be willing to participate in this performance?

Document C – A Century of Dishonor

1. Why wouldn’t the Native Americans want to return to the Indian Territory?

1. How did the situation escalate from attempting to starve them submission to shooting them at the ravine? How might this situation have been avoided?

Document D – Three Lakota Boys

1. One of the goals of assimilation policy was to “kill the Indian, save the man.” How does this Before and After picture show the methods used to achieve this goal?

1. What affect did this have on how white society viewed these young Native Americans? How do you think it affected how they acted and viewed themselves?

Document E – The Indian Dilemma

1. Schurz seemingly goes from sounding sympathetic to referring to Native Americans as a slower, unglorified race of people. Do you think he meant this, or was he simply trying to convince others to agree with his solution? Explain.
2. Why didn’t the assimilation process work? Could it have worked if it had been carried out in a different way? Why or why not?

Document F – Wounded Knee Report

1. How did the newspaper editor use word choice to convey the nature of what happened at Wounded Knee? What kinds of words would have been used to describe what happened by the soldiers and survivors?
2. Why has this event gone from being referred to as the “Battle of Wounded Knee” to the “Wounded Knee Massacre”?