Federal Writers Project Assignment

Overview: The WPA Federal Writers' Project, a program established in the United States in 1935 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as part of the New Deal struggle against the Great Depression. It provided jobs for unemployed writers, editors, and research workers. Directed by Henry G. Alsberg, it operated in all states and at one time employed 6,600 men and women. The American Guide series, the project's most important achievement, included guides for every state and territory (except Hawaii), as well as for Washington, D.C., New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New Orleans, and Philadelphia; for several major highways (U.S. 1, Ocean Highway, Oregon Trail); and for scores of towns, villages, and counties. The state guides, encyclopaedic in scope, combined travel information with essays on geography, architecture, history, and commerce. The project also produced ethnic studies, folklore collections, local histories, nature studies—a total of more than 1,000 books and pamphlets.

The Library of Congress has a collection of over 2,000 individual dialogues/works from this time period. Many were paid to document the historical time period they were experiencing.

Directions: Go to the website below and follow the step by step instructions.

https://www.loc.gov/collections/federal-writers-project/about-this-collection/

Step 1: Read the "About the Federal Writer's project" on the main page. Once finished, give me a 3-4 complete sentence summary of what the Federal Writers Project was about and what the Library of Congress has done with the works.

Step 2: Scroll back to the top of the page. Towards the left hand side you will see a blue tab labeled "Collection items". Click on it. This will take you to a webpage full of real life collections from the Federal Writer's Project. I want you to skim through them (there are so many to pick from!) and pick one to read in its entirety. I know some are hard to read, but there is a "show text" option that will allow you to read it like a word document. Once you have chosen one that intrests you and you have read it, answr the following questions.

1. Title of the works you chose: _____
2. What was it mainly about (3-4 sentences):

3. How does what you read link to what you know about the Great Depression? (4-5 complete sentences Be DEATAILED!)

Step 3: I want you to pretend that right now (April of 2020), the Federal Government is re-establishing the Federal Writers Project to alleviate the problems of unemployment due to the COVID-19 Crisis in America. Just like back during the Great Depression, the government has asked writers to record history. I want you to write about **your own account** of how COVID-19 has impacted you, your family, your community, your country, and the world. I want you to really stop and think about what all has happened, what is continuing to happen, etc when starting to write this; I want you to be as authentic and real as you can. This is you recording your own history. I encourage you to also read the news in order to talk about how COVID-19 has impacted the state of Mississippi, the US, the economy, and the world. Take your TIME writing this. I want it to be at least 4 paragraphs with 4-7 complete detailed sentences in each one. You are writing about yourself and your own experience, so it shouldn't be too hard! If you want to write more, PLEASE DO! Again, this is YOUR history.