**Middle Passage Flipped assignment**

**Students will watch a video, read a letter, and also view pictures of the Middle Passage. As you do the above, make notes about how the slaves must have felt while on the boats. Note what you would see, hear, small, taste, etc.**

**Begin by watching the video-** [**http://vimeo.com/37350768**](http://vimeo.com/37350768)

**After the video, read the following slave narrative.**

**For weeks you have waited in the dungeon of a slave factory along the western coast of Africa. You already made the long, difficult journey from Africa’s interior- but just barely. Out of the roughly 20 million who were taken from their homelands and sold into slavery, as you have been, half did not make it. Most died along the way.**

**The worst is yet to come.**

**You are about to embark on the infamous Middle Passage, so called because it was the middle leg of a 3 part voyage- a voyage that carried cargo that often included iron, cloth, brandy, firearms, and gun powder. Upon landing on Africa’s “slave coast”, the cargo was exchanged for Africans. Fully loaded with its human cargo, the ships set sail for the Americas, where you will be exchanged for sugar, tobacco, or some other product. The final leg will be the ships being brought back to Europe.**

**You have no idea what lies ahead. Other Africans who made the Middle Passage to the plantations of the New World did not return to your homeland to tell what happened.**

**You will be branded with hot irons and restrained with shackles. Your living quarters are a deck within the ship that has less than five feet of headroom- and throughout a large portion of the deck sleeping shelves will cut this limited amount of headroom in half. Lack of standing headroom is the least of your problems, though. With 300-400 people packed in a tiny area- an area with little ventilation and , in some cases, not even enough space to place buckets for human waste- disease will be prevalent. The heat of the climate, the number of people on the ship, and the small will be enough to suffocate a person. The air will become so unfit for respiration, from the smell of sweat, human waste, and dead bodies, it will make many of you so sick you will die.**

**Faced with these nightmarish conditions and the unknown future that lies beyond, many of you will prefer to die. But even the choice of suicide will be taken away from you. From the captain’s point of view, his human cargo is extremely valuable and has to be kept alive, and if possible uninjured. If you tried to starve yourself you would be tortured. If torture didn’t work, you will be force fed with the help of a contraption called a speculum orum, which would hold your mouth open.**

**Despite the captain’s desire to keep as many slaves as possible alive, the Middle Passage death rates were rather high. Close to 2 million of the 12 million who embark this journey will not survive.**

**You will now view paintings of the Middle Passage.**

**Pictures from ppt.**

**After you have listened, read, and looked at all of the Middle Passage information please complete the Senses worksheet for class on Tuesday. Describe each sense by listing 5 items in each part. 5 for Sight, 5 for Smell, 5 for Hear, 5 for Feel (emotions).**