**Background Reading 1**

1. Explain what drove the European interest in slaves from Africa. Be detailed.

**Mortality Chart**

1. How did the chart’s author determine the mortality rate of each voyage?
2. What factors do you think might make a mortality rate higher or lower on a voyage?
3. Why might the ship *Nancy* have had a mortality rate of 100%?
4. What is the estimated overall mortality rate of the Middle Passage? (i.e. what percentage of the 12 million slaves brought across the Middle Passage died en route?)

**Background Reading 2**

1. Describe the conditions on the decks where the slaves were kept.
2. What were the causes of slave deaths aboard the slave ships? List at least 6 causes of death.
3. Do you think the crews on the slave ships wanted to hurt the slaves? Why or why not? List at least 3 things that would prompt the crew to kill a slave.

**“Space on the slave decks” by Alexander Falconbridge**

1. Why did the slaves have to lie only on their sides?
2. Why were European slavers packing the slaves so tightly together?

**Food**

1. What would happen to slaves who refused to eat?
2. Why do you think they tortured slaves who did not want to eat?

**Ventilation of the ships**

1. How did Alexander Falconbridge attribute poor weather to an increase in disease?
2. Why did the interior of the slave ship look like “a slaughter-house”?

**“Jumping Overboard” – Olaudah Equiano**

1. Why do you think some slaves wanted to jump overboard?
2. What did the sailors do to the slave who they rescued from drowning? Why do you think they did that to him?

**Writing Assignment (Minimum 3 paragraphs)**

**Option 1:** Create a monument design and plaque/inscription for a new memorial designed to commemorate those who died on the Middle Passage. Your inscription for the memorial must include:

* The event that the memorial commemorates (provide some background on the Atlantic slave trade/Middle Passage)
* The relevant dates of the event
* The people that it commemorates:
  + How many died
  + How and why they died (describe the conditions in detail)
  + Where they died

**Option 2:** Imagine you are aboard a slave ship on the Middle Passage. Create a journal entry/set of journal entries describing the journey. The only catch…you are blind and must use your other senses to gather information about what is happening on board. Be creative, explain as much as you can about the Middle Passage experience using your other senses.