United States History I
Research Project and Paper

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MISSION AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT

As you continue onward in education one of the skills expected for many students is the process of researching, citing, and formatting a formal research paper. Through the use of historic and scholarly research this project will increase your understanding of not only the proper research method but also your understanding of events and/or persons within American history. This will take five weeks to complete and will count as a 4th quarter grade. Everything you need to know for this project can be found in this packet.

BREAKDOWN AND REQUIREMENTS

Please note that there are several sections to this project which will be recorded on Edline separately. Below is the breakdown of each section.

☐ 10 points- Formal outline of researched information
☐ 15 points- Rough Draft submitted
☐ 50 points- ____-____ page research paper (typed)
☐ 20 points- Bibliography/Citations of ____ sources in proper MLA format
☐ 5 points- Turning in assignment on time. Failure to do so will result in loss of points.

**Each time a portion of this research paper that is not turned in on time will automatically be deducted ½ of that section points.

HOW YOU WILL BE GRADED

Formal Outline (10 points)
You must submit a separate formal outline of your paper that includes researched information.
- Typed in proper MLA format as discussed in class
- Quotes and citations marked where you plan on using them

Rough Draft (15 points)
You must submit a rough draft of your paper that includes an introduction, body and conclusion paragraphs as well as a “works cited” page.
- Typed in proper MLA format

Research Paper (50 points)
You must submit your ____-____ page research paper that follows the guidelines.
- Typed in Times New Roman font, size 12
- Double-spaced
- Proper formatting (as discussed in class)
- Written on an approved and researched topic
- Cover page is included and attached to front of paper

Bibliography (20 points)
You must submit a separate bibliography with your final research paper that includes:
- At least _______ (____) sources cited - __________________________________________
- Typed in proper MLA format, Times New Roman font, size 12
Prewriting: Topic, Research Question, and Thesis Statement

Write your specific topic and research question in the spaces provided.

**TOPIC:**

________________________________________________________________

**RESEARCH QUESTION:**

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

You now need to create your thesis. A thesis is a statement (not a question) that explains what you think about your topic, more specifically your research question. Your thesis statement is what you will try to prove in your paper. The information you gather from your research needs to support your thesis.

**THESIS STATEMENT:**

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

Edited THESIS STATEMENT (if needed):

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

Edited THESIS STATEMENT (if needed):

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

**FINAL THESIS STATEMENT:**

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________
Formal Outline: Set Up and Examples

Remember that this is a topic outline, so you only need to use words and phrases; please do not include complete sentences. This outline needs to be typed.

Plan your outline. How will you order your information? Check the order you will use.

□ Chronological Order
   Event 1:
   Event 2:
   Event 3

□ Order of Importance
   Main Idea 1 (most or least important)
   Main Idea 2
   Main Idea 3 (most or least important)

□ Logical Order
   Cause-effect 1:
   Cause-effect 2:

Type the following heading at the top of your page:

Your name
Class Period
Research Topic
Date Due

Outline
Thesis Statement: Write a complete sentence here that states the main point you will make in your paper.

I. Event/Cause-effect/Main Idea 1
   A. Supporting Detail 1
      1. Sub Detail 1
         a. Detail about the sub-detail
            (1)
            (2)
      2. Sub Detail 2
   B. Supporting Detail 2, etc.

II. Event/Cause-Effet/Main Idea 2, etc.

Here is an example:

Mr. Kirkland
Class Period A
Research Topic Bishop Feehan High School
Date Due: July 3rd, 1988

Outline
Thesis Statement: The success of Bishop Feehan High School during the early 1970s was largely dependent on the dedication of the Sisters of Mercy.

I. Sisters dedicated their lives to BFHS
   A. Nuns in Convent
      1. attached to school
         a. close to classes
            (1) time not wasted
            b. school activities
               (1) always around
      2. mission
         a. “hearts on things above”
   B. Employment at BFHS
      1. work and prayer, etc.
Another possible option for an outline format is below…

Outline for US History I Paper

Name: ___________________________  Period: ___  Due Date: ______________________

Topic: __________________________________________________________

Thesis Statement:
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

Main Point: ________________________________________________________________

Examples/Supporting Details/Explanations:
- ________________________________________________________________
- ________________________________________________________________
- ________________________________________________________________

Main Point: ________________________________________________________________

Examples/Supporting Details/Explanations:
- ________________________________________________________________
- ________________________________________________________________
- ________________________________________________________________

Main Point: ________________________________________________________________

Examples/Supporting Details/Explanations:
- ________________________________________________________________
- ________________________________________________________________
- ________________________________________________________________

Main Point: ________________________________________________________________

Examples/Supporting Details/Explanations:
- ________________________________________________________________
- ________________________________________________________________
- ________________________________________________________________

A list of your sources you planning on using should be included with your outline. This does not need to be a full bibliography but you MUST have sources before you write your paper!!!
Works Cited Information and Format

When you use information that is not yours as evidence in your paper you must give the author or authors the credit and acknowledgment they deserve. Not only is it the right thing to do it is the LAW.

Format Requirements

- Works Cited page should be its own page, 1 inch borders for the Work Cited page.
- The Work Cited title should be on the first type able line and centered.
- Your name and page header should be ½ inch from the top of the page and aligned with the right side.
- Entries should be listed in alphabetical order (A-Z).

Two Guidelines

☐ Find the information you need from each source you look at; try to create the entry without using an online generator.
☐ If you have questions ask!!

Citing Examples

Book
Author's last name, first name. Book title. Additional information. City of publication: Publishing company, publication date.

Examples:

Encyclopedia and Dictionary
Author's last name, first name. "Title of Article." Title of Encyclopedia. Date.

**Note: If the dictionary or encyclopedia arranges articles alphabetically, you may omit volume and page numbers.**

Example:

Website or Webpage
Author's last name, first name (if available). "Title of work within a project or database." Title of site, project, or database. Editor (if available). Electronic publication information (Date of

Bishop Feehan High School - Social Studies Department
publication or of the latest update, and name of any sponsoring institution or organization). Date of access and <full URL>.

**Note: If you cannot find some of this information, cite what is available.**

**Examples:**

In text (Parenthetical) Citations

These OWL resources below will help you learn how to use the Modern Language Association (MLA) citation and format style. This section contains resources on in-text citation and the Works Cited page, as well as MLA sample papers, slide presentations, and the MLA classroom poster. THIS IS VERY A USEFUL AND HELPFUL GUIDE!

- **MLA Formatting and Style Guide**
  http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

- **MLA Formatting Quotations**
  http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/03/

- **MLA Citing Sources**
  - Books: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/06/
  - Electronic Sources: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08/
  - Other Used Resources: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/09/

- **MLA In-Text Citations: The Basics**
  http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/

- **MLA Works Cited Page Sample**
  http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/12/

- **MLA Sample Paper**
  http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/13/
Cover Page: Formatting Requirements

Title Page Requirements

☐ Title should be 2 inches from the top and centered.
☐ 3 inches from the bottom and centered: Your name, (next line) course title and period, (next line) teacher/professor’s name, (next line) due date.

Page Requirements

☐ All pages EXCEPT THE TITLE PAGE should have the author’s last name (your last name) and the page number in the upper right hand corner. You can do this by formatting the page headers. Example below:

Name(space)#
   Kirkland 1

☐ The first page with your writing on it is page 1—the title page does NOT have a page number.
5 Paragraph Essay Formula

Introduction

Say what you are going to say.

Point #1

Point #2

Point #3

Conclusion

Say what you just said.

This formula is included by permission from the Portland State University

**For exemplar introduction and conclusion paragraphs please see Edline under “NEWS”.**
The Commandments of Writing

1) Use active verbs. Avoid the use of “has been,” “have been,” “could have been,” “would have,” “were able,” “was able to,” “There are,” and “There is.”

2) Avoid words that qualify and limit your statements like “perhaps,” “might have been” or “seems to.” They weaken sentences and their arguments. Make your writing as strong and as direct as possible. Avoid using the adverb “very.”

3) Try to consistently employ the same tense in a paragraph. Do not alternate between past and present tenses in the same paragraph. This confuses readers.

I personally prefer and encourage writers to employ the past tense because, as historians, most historical narratives are written in that voice. You may use the present tense when discussing a specific text, but be consistent in usage.

4) Plurals of dates do not need an apostrophe

GOOD: 1850s
BAD: 1850’s.

5) When “nineteenth century” is used as an adjective, it is hyphenated; when used as a noun it is not; hence, nineteenth-century slaves, not nineteenth century slaves. The same applies with similar constructions: twentieth-century robots, not twentieth century robots; working-class apples, not working class apples; middle-class oranges, not middle class oranges.

6) Avoid contractions. Always write the full expression

GOOD: cannot, would not
BAD: can’t, wouldn’t

7) Avoid beginning sentences with “It,” “This,” or “There.”

8) Avoid repeating words on the same page or in the same paragraph. The English language is rich; there is no need to repeat your vocabulary. Get out your thesaurus using a variety of nouns and verbs makes for more lively writing.

9) Proofread. If I see more than three typos or errors, I find it hard to believe that you really read it before I did.

10) Improve your overall writing by reading the paper out loud when completed. If a sentence or paragraph makes no sense when spoken, rewrite it.

11) A sentence should contain no unnecessary words and unnecessary paragraphs, for the same reason that a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all sentences short or avoid all detail and treat subjects only by outline.
12) Paginate your paper insert page numbers starting with the second page.

13) Place ending punctuation inside quotation marks. Put the period directly after the word “equal” and before the ending quotation mark.

   GOOD- “The Declaration of Independence says, “All men are created equal.”
   BAD- “The Declaration of Independence says, “All men are created equal”.

14) Do not refer to individuals by only the first name.

   -Abraham Lincoln or Lincoln, not Abe
   -Eleanor Roosevelt or Roosevelt, not Eleanor

15) Underline or italicize titles of books.

   -Great Gatsby or Great Gatsby

16) Underline or italicize titles of films

   -Finding Nemo or Finding Nemo

17) Underline or italicize titles of ships, airplanes, or spacecraft.

   -Mayflower or Mayflower
     -Enola Gay or Enola Gay
     -Columbia or Columbia

18) Put chapters of books, songs, and plays in “quotation marks”

   -“Antebellum Culture and Reform,” in Alan Brinkley’s American History: A Survey
     -Bruce Springsteen’s “Born in the U.S.A.”;
     -William Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet.”

19.) Capitalize proper names. Do not capitalize common names.

   -Ronald Reagan was a Republican
     -Thomas Jefferson believed in republican principles
       -Franklin Roosevelt was a Democrat
         -The United States holds democratic elections

20) Do not use: I, me, we, you

21) Do not ask questions within your paper.

   BAD- Why did this happen? Let me tell you.

Due Dates and Turn In Checklist

2/28/13 or 3/1/13  Introduction of Research Paper Project
3/7/13        Have two (2) potential topics and two (2) potential thesis statements for class
3/18/13  Have the following items for class on this date:
          • Formal Outline
          • Works cited with three (3) sources
3/25/13 or 3/26/12 Rough Draft completed. The following will be checked:
          • Citations
          • Spelling/punctuation
          • Format
4/12/13  Final Draft Due of Research Paper
5/17/13  Research Papers Graded and Handed Back

REMINDEERS

“DO NOT”
□ No Contractions
□ No Spelling Errors

DO
□ Make sure you have proper capitalization
□ Proper Formatting (see handout)
□ Heading on first page in top left hand (your name, date, prof name, course)
□ Title (centered under heading)

Before submitting check the “Ten Commandments of Writing”