

United States History Research Paper Prompt

A new edition of your United States History textbook is being published and a number of events since 1900 are being removed because they are not important enough. Why should _____ * be kept in the textbook? *Be sure to include at least two of the following focus areas: social, political, economic, cultural, environmental.*

**You will choose or be assigned your event in class.*

THE REQUIREMENTS

THIS IS WORTH 100 points (exam)

- ✓ MLA format (including a "Works Cited" page) *See MLA Guide handouts for instructions*
- ✓ 3 FULL pages minimum/5 pages maximum
- ✓ Typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font (MLA FORMAT)
- ✓ Gather research from both primary and secondary sources. *You must have a minimum of two primary sources*
- ✓ Utilize research to gather and organize your evidence. *You must have a minimum of four total sources.*
- ✓ Submit research paper online through www.turnitin.com
- ✓ Submit hard copies (or online) of your research paper (including Works Cited) to your teacher
- ✓ TITLE PAGE not included in minimum pages.
- ✓ Plagiarism will result in an AUTOMATIC FAIL

THE RUBRIC:

<i>Topic</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
Contextualization	No contextualization attempted.	Historical background is attempted, but lacks explanation.	Historical background is fully developed to provide context for the essay.
Thesis	Thesis is not attempted or is too vague, confusing, or off-topic.	Thesis addresses one specific focus area.	Thesis addresses two specific focus areas.
Evidence	Evidence from one or fewer source is used in the paper.	Evidence from two or three sources is used in the paper.	Evidence from at least four sources is used in the paper.
Analysis	No analysis attempted for any source.	One source is properly analyzed.	At least two sources are properly analyzed.
Synthesis	No synthesis attempted.	A specific connection is made, but missing analysis for why the connection is similar.	A specific connection is made and analysis is provided for why the connection is similar.

DUE DATE: Tuesday, April 23rd

Research Paper Calendar		
March 18-22	Research paper assigned. Works on Steps 1-3: Select group & gather research.	
March 19-April 12	Work on Steps 4, 5 & 6. Finish research. Write your thesis statement. Write your outline & rough draft.	
April 22-23	Submit online (Turnitin.com) and copy for class.	Tuesday, April 23

Step 1 Read the Prompt

Why should _____ * should be kept in the textbook? Be sure to include at least two of the following focus areas: social, political, economic, cultural, environmental.

Step 2 What event?

Step 3 RESEARCH! RESEARCH! RESEARCH!

- ⇒ Your thesis must take a position in response to the prompt. Why is your event important enough to continue to be included in the textbook? **Your specific position will be determined by the research (evidence) that you gather.**
- ⇒ You will determine your position by addressing the important of your event in at least two of the focus areas (not all events will fit all areas): **social, political, economic, cultural, or environmental.**
- ⇒ In order to answer the question you must conduct extensive (in-depth) research!

Types of Research There are TWO types of research materials for you to use in your pursuit of answering the prompt:

- Primary Source = documents written at the time by someone involved (Supreme Court cases, legislation, speeches, letters, newspaper articles)
- Secondary Source = later discussion, such as a newspaper article or biography

Begin your Research You need a minimum of 4 Sources:

- You must have a minimum of two primary sources among your sources
- Find Sources:
 - Books (your textbook does not count, but online versions of a printed book do)
 - Online resources
 - JSTOR, ABC-CLIO, Journals, Newspapers, Magazines, Websites
 - Media (Documentaries, photographs, art, etc.)

Focus Areas Checklist (minimum 3)	Source Checklist
<input type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/> Primary /Secondary (Area _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Primary /Secondary (Area _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Primary /Secondary (Area _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Primary /Secondary (Area _____)

- ⇒ Now that you have gathered your sources and done your research, you can begin to review your research and start preparing to write your paper.
- ⇒ After reviewing your research you should be able to answer the prompt's primary question: **Why should your event be kept in the textbook?**
- ⇒ You must include evidence from at least two of the following focus areas:

<p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Communication ⇒ Social roles ⇒ Gender roles ⇒ Literacy/education ⇒ Family/friends ⇒ Technology 	
<p>Political</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Laws ⇒ Elections ⇒ Citizens ⇒ War/Military ⇒ Human rights ⇒ Protests ⇒ Corruption ⇒ Technology 	
<p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Employment ⇒ Taxes ⇒ Trade ⇒ Budget ⇒ Marketing ⇒ Investing ⇒ Technology 	
<p>Cultural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Fashion ⇒ Sports ⇒ Music ⇒ Entertainment ⇒ Language ⇒ Values ⇒ Religion ⇒ Art ⇒ Media ⇒ Technology 	
<p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Climate/Weather ⇒ Pollution ⇒ Disease ⇒ Migration ⇒ Technology 	

Step 5 Develop a Thesis Statement (Topic/Position/Rationale)

- ◆ Your thesis statement should be the last few sentences of your introduction paragraph
- ◆ It is meant to establish the purpose of your essay.
- ◆ A “Superior” thesis statement is developed into clear and concise parts.
 - Example of a well-developed thesis statement:
 - **Prompt: To what extent did the Civil War constitute a revolution in American society?**
 - “Politically, the Civil War established the supremacy of the Republican Party in national politics for much of the next fifty years. Socially, the war saw significant gains in African American rights. And constitutionally, the war established the supremacy of the federal government over the states. Thus, the Civil War did in fact represent a political, social and constitutional revolution in America.”

My First Draft Thesis Statement

Step 6 Outline Paper

- ◆ *Introduction Paragraph: Introduces your reader to the topic of your essay.*
 - Provide historical context to your reader
 - Hint to your arguments conclusion.
 - Write a clear and concise **thesis statement** that provides an argument to be proven within your research paper.
- ◆ *Body Paragraphs:*
 - Start with a topic sentence that connects your thesis statement to the subject of your first body paragraph.
 - Be sure to give specific, detailed examples.
 - Use your resources to provide the evidence to support your thesis statement (argument).
 - Be sure to compare and contrast, not just provide evidence.
- ◆ *Conclusion: Review your argument. Summarize your main points.*

Step 7 Write your Paper

- Make sure that you are answering the prompt.
- Utilize MLA formatting.
- Proofread!!!

Step 8 Do’s and Don’ts

<p><i>Do’s</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limit pages you are writing: do not ramble on 2. Answer the prompt clearly 3. Use 3rd person, past tense 4. Use academic writing 5. Remember the format 	<p><i>Don’ts</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retell a story (we know what happened)— “just the facts” 2. English-style “hooks” in your introduction 3. Full-page paragraphs 4. Copy/paste from web or any other source 5. Procrastinate
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Step 9 Turnitin.com Remember your DUE DATE. Essay must be submitted to turnitin.com by 3:20pm on April 23rd.

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