

United States History Second Semester Research Paper

- Due Date: Tuesday, April 23rd
- Length: 3-5 pages
 - Does not include title page and works cited
- Submission: Online (Google Classroom and turnitin.com), plus 4 research journals
- Value: 100 points (Exams)

Step 1: Read The 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?**

Step 2: Event

- **This will be randomly assigned to you**

Step 3: Research

- You need to start figuring out which of the focus areas (minimum two) you will be using to write your paper
 - Social
 - Political
 - Economic
 - Cultural
 - Environmental

Step 3: Research (continued)

- You are researching *at least* FOUR total sources
- While four is the minimum, keep in mind that it is the *minimum*
- The only specific requirement is two must be primary sources
- There are no additional requirements/limitations on what types of sources (ex: website, book, journal, etc) you may use other than your textbook does not count as one of the 4 and you cannot use any primary source that was assigned in class

Step 3: Research (continued)

- Potential types of sources
 - Books
 - Physical, ebook, online
 - Websites
 - Newspapers, magazines, interviews, political cartoons
 - Online journals
 - JSTOR (available through the GHCHS library)
 - Other?
 - Ask your teacher for permission

Step 3: Research (continued)

- You must have *four* total Research Journals
 - At least two must be primary sources

Primary Source Research Journal—Website

Author (if any; Last, First): _____

Title of Web Page: _____

Title of Web Site: _____

Date Published or Last Revised: _____

Date Accessed by You: _____

URL: _____

Background of the Author:	
Circumstances in which the Document was Written:	

Step 3: Research (continued)

- You must have *four* total Research Journals

Secondary Source Research Journal—Book

Author (Last, First): _____

Title (including edition or volume, if any): _____

Publishing City: _____

Publishing Company: _____

Year Published: _____

Notes:	Page Numbers:

Step 4: Write Your Thesis

- Thesis must answer the question of why your event is important enough to be kept in the textbook using at least two of these focus areas:
 - * Social
 - * Political
 - * Economic
 - * Cultural
 - * Environmental
- Example: The Homestead Strike was an event important enough to remain in the new textbook because politically it was one of the most significant labor incidents where the federal government sided with management over labor, socially because it resulted in the virtual destruction of the steelworkers union for decades, and economically because steelworkers' wages remained low due to the lack of unionization.

Step 5: Outline Paper

- Introduction Paragraph: *Introduces your reader to the topic of your essay.*
 - Provide historical context to your reader, i.e. explain what period of time your essay will be focusing on and what the subject of your paper will be.
 - 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 discuss influence on today, not just provide evidence.
- Conclusion: *Review your argument. Summarize your main points.*

Step 6: Write Your Paper

Keep in Mind

- Make sure that you are answering the prompt
- Make sure that you proofread more than once

A+B
C+D
E-F



spelling
grammar
punctuation

Step 7: MLA Citation

- In-Text Citations
 - All sources used must be cited within the paper when used, whether at the end of a sentence (if a direct quote) or the end of a paragraph (if ideas are used throughout)
 - Multiple authors may be cited at the same time at the end of a paragraph: (Jones 12, Smith 195-200)
- Embedding quotes
 - As was said about the French Revolution in *A Tale of Two Cities*, "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times" (Dickens 1).

Step 7: MLA Citation (continued)

- Works Cited example for a book (ebook):
Smith, John. *This is My Book*. Los Angeles: Book Publishing, Inc, 2012. eBook.
- Works Cited example for an online journal:
Jones, John. "I Wrote an Article." *Everyone Gets Published Magazine*. 27.5 (2013): 15-20. Print.

Step 7: MLA Citation (continued)

- Works Cited example for a website:
Williams, John. "This is My Opinion Today." *Lots of Opinions Site*. N.p., 15 Aug 2012. Web. 7 Sep 2013. <http://_____>.
- Site to use: Citation Machine (<http://citationmachine.net>) will help with citing all different types of sources, both in text and for the Works Cited page

Step 8: Do's and Don'ts

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Do's</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>Don'ts</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 |
|--|--|

Step 9: Turnitin.com

- Course Number: 18798559
Password: Yauger
- Remember your DUE DATE (April 23rd)! In addition to turning in your 4 research journals, your essay must be submitted to Google Classroom and turnitin.com by 3:20pm of that day. No exceptions!

Rubric

Topic	0	1	2
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.

Calendar

MARCH 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29
31					

APRIL 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26

- Sign Up For Turnitin.com— March 25
- Research Journals (2)—March 28
- Thesis—April 12
- Outline—April 8
- Finished Paper— April 23

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Minimum 4 sources, but to properly respond to the prompt and to get the best possible grade, you should be doing more sources (which must be cited and included in the works cited)
2. Follow all MLA formatting directions, which include title page, in-text citations, works cited page (for the 4 required sources, plus any others that you use to write your paper)
3. On April 23rd, in addition to submitting to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com), you will be handing in all 4 research journals