

AP United States History

Mr. Broach, 2008 – 2009

This paper is due: Sunday, December 7th by 10:00 PM (online at Turnitin.com)*Research Paper Assignment:**Political Changes from Civil War and Reconstruction*

Your research assignment for the second quarter is to write a formal paper using an AP-style topic. The guidelines that you have received for previous essays still apply. This paper should have a well-developed thesis, adequate and specific evidence, and analysis. Please see me if you have any questions.

This assignment will count twice in the paper/essay category (25% grading weight).

TOPIC:

Explain why and how the role of the federal government changed as a result of the Civil War with respect to the following areas during the time period 1861 – 1877:

- **Race Relations**
- **Economic Development**
- **Westward Expansion**

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

For this assignment, you should analyze the changes the federal government implemented during the Civil War and Reconstruction years. For each of the three categories, consider:

Why was a change needed? Give specific historical examples to support your argument.

What was changed? How did the federal government respond? (Acts/laws, etc – BE SPECIFIC)

Was this a necessary change? Did these acts, laws, and/or events change the role of the federal government?

We will discuss examples in class, so it is extremely important to pay attention.

RESEARCH:

Before beginning your research, you should use the information in your textbooks to derive a preliminary outline. Then, research the material. For this assignment, you must include:

- Three (3) secondary sources, other than your textbooks. One of these must be a print source (not gained from the internet).
- Suggested: One (1) primary source (this is optional)

For your research, remember that there are many tools available to you. Please consult our class website for links to useful resources. Also, be sure to visit the website of the Bishop Kenny Media Center.

FORMAT:

- All sources should be cited **in-text** and on the **works cited page**. Any information gained from an outside source, whether quoted or not, must be properly cited.
- Margins should be set at 1" on all four sides;
- Standard fonts should be used and set at a rating of 10-12 points (no higher);
- The paper should be at least four (4) full pages, typed and double-spaced, and no more than eight (8) pages.
- **Spelling/Grammar:** You are expected as a junior student in an AP course to write well. Proofread!

Please see the next page for the grading rubric.

Grading Rubric

- The “A” paper (From the 8-9 category on the AP Exam):** **100 95 (score depends on effectiveness)**
- Contains a clear, well-developed thesis that explains why and how the Civil War changed the role of the federal government in the three aspects of society from 1861-1877
 - Develops the thesis with considerable specific and relevant historical information
 - Covers both the why and how; coverage may be somewhat uneven
 - Provides effective analysis, consistently
 - May contain minor errors
 - Uses research sources appropriately
 - Well organized, well written, proper paper format

- The “A- or B+” paper:** **92 90 88**
- One of the above components is not covered effectively, as noted in the general comments section.

- The “B” paper:** **85 82 80**
- Contains a thesis that partially explains why and how the Civil War changed the role of the federal government in the three aspects of society from 1861-1877
 - Supports the thesis with some specific and relevant historical information
 - Covers both the why and how
 - Provides some analysis, though may be unbalanced or some key points are missing
 - May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay
 - Has acceptable organization and writing; Proper format
 - Uses most research sources appropriately

- The “C” paper:** **78 75 72 70**
- Contains a limited thesis (higher score); or contains a confused or unfocused thesis (middle-lower)
 - May not provide enough specific information or lists facts with little or no application to the topic (level of evidence/analysis will modify score) [automatic]
 - Covers only the why or how or makes general statements for both
 - Is imbalanced between topics, or does not make a clear argument for all three
 - May contain major errors
 - May not use all research sources appropriately
 - May have problems with writing, or format

- The “D” paper:** **68 65 62 60**
- Introduction/thesis simply paraphrases the prompt without explaining how and why (automatic)
 - Too little information presented to be considered adequate (automatic)
 - No analysis, or too little to be considered adequate (automatic)
 - Poorly organized or written
 - Inadequate research sources

- Failing Papers:** **50 40 30 20**
- Incompetent or inappropriate response
 - Has little or no understanding of the topic

DEDUCTIONS:

1 point for each spelling/grammar error _____

3 points for each major formatting error _____

FINAL PAPER SCORE:

Points are deducted for late papers. Please read the Papers & Electronic Communications Policies document posted online for more information.