

Instructions:

Choose one of the following topics. Create a preliminary list of ideas of what you would include in your argument to address the topic, based on what we have done in class. Then, thoroughly research the topic, make an outline to plan your paper and then, write an effective analysis. **(Feel free to show me your outline or rough draft if you need help)**

Since this is our first paper assignment of this nature, I will give you a list of what key events/information should appear in these topics when we conduct our "Constitution Seminar".

Option # 1

Analyze the various compromises reached at the Constitutional Convention **and** to secure ratification of the Constitution. To what extent was the spirit of compromise vital to the founding and success of this new government?

IMPORTANT NOTE: To adequately answer this prompt, you must describe the problems and the compromises (not just one compromise – all the major ones). Furthermore, you **must** argue why these compromises were absolutely necessary given the events of the 1780s and you **must** argue why compromise is absolutely necessary for this type of government (a republic).

Option # 2

To what extent was the U.S. Constitution a radical departure from the Articles of Confederation?

IMPORTANT NOTE: For this topic, you need to fully analyze how the Constitution was different from the Articles of Confederation and argue how these differences represent a fundamental change. (How can they be considered radical? Certainly, Anti-Federalists feared they were too radical of change)

Format:

Your paper should include: **(You are responsible for reading the [writing advice handout](#) online)**

- A clear introduction with a thesis that presents an effective argument for the entire topic;
- Supporting paragraphs that include **evidence** (specific historical examples) and **analysis** (how / why / significance);
- A thorough analysis of the entire topic/time period with all major examples/events included;
- A conclusion that effectively wraps-up the argument without being repetitive;
- Appropriate use of research and proper citations;
- A works cited page in proper MLA format.

Other requirements:

- All sources should be cited **in-text** and on the **works cited page** in proper MLA format. Any information gained from an outside source, whether quoted or not, must be properly cited. Use your Writers, Inc. text to check your citation format.
- 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 three (3) full pages, typed and double-spaced, and no more than six (6) pages.
- **Spelling/Grammar:** You are expected as a junior student in an honors course to write well. Proofread! Also, consult the Writing Advice guide ([linked here](#))
 - **Note that points will be deducted for spelling and grammar errors**

Sources:

- The textbook must be used as a source
- At least two (2) outside secondary sources must be used (at least one of which should be a print source not gained from the internet)
- The best advice for outside research is to use the subscription databases provided by the Bishop Kenny Media Center (Info Trac Student Resource Center)
- **Also refer to the "Research" tab of our class website for other helpful advice.**

Grading Rubric: SEE NEXT PAGE

This is the rubric that will be used to score your paper. Your score, its rationale and any other feedback will be contained in the General Comments section of your paper in GradeMark.

Outstanding Paper, score (depending on effectiveness): 100 95
(all criteria must be met to receive a score in this category)

- Paper has a clear introduction and thesis that presents an effective and complete argument;
- Supporting paragraphs contain adequate, specific evidence to prove the argument;
- Supporting paragraphs contain enough analysis that makes a compelling argument;
- Historical information presented is accurate;
- Paper is well organized and well written;
- Research sources are used effectively.
- Proper MLA format, sources cited correctly.

Excellent Paper, score (depending on effectiveness): 92 90 88

One of the above areas not effective or minor error (will be noted in the general comments section)

Good Paper, score (depending on effectiveness): 85 82 80

- Paper does contain a thesis with an acceptable introduction;
- Supporting paragraphs contain some evidence and analysis to prove an argument (level of evidence and analysis affects scoring);
- Paper is mostly well organized and written;
- Most research sources are used effectively.
- May/may not have imbalance or slight inaccuracies that do not affect the overall argument.
- Proper MLA format; sources cited correctly (must apply to receive a grade in this category)

Fair Paper, score (depending on effectiveness): 78 75 72 70

- Paper does not have enough evidence and analysis to make an effective argument (automatic); OR
- Several areas not effectively addresses or multiple criteria not fully met;
- May contain few major errors;
- May not use research sources effectively.

Poor Paper, score (depending on errors/conditions): 68 65 62 60

- Many errors in paper, OR
- Insufficient evidence and/or analysis to fulfill requirements (as noted)

Failing Paper, score (depending on errors/conditions): 50 40 30 20

- Paper fails to meet the requirements of the assignment;
- Paper may be completely off-topic.

Point Deductions: - 3 points for each major formatting error
 - 1 point for each spelling or grammar error

Final Score _____

POINTS ARE DEDUCTED FOR PAPERS SUBMITTED LATE. PLEASE SEE THE PAPERS & ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS DOCUMENT POSTED ONLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION.