

In the past, I have assigned two separate paper assignments for the second quarter. Instead of this, I have decided to assign one larger project and allow you the opportunity to select a topic and research it over the next several weeks. **Please read all of the following instructions carefully to fully understand how this project is to take place and how it will be graded.** Remember that writing consists of 20% of the course grade.

Procedures and Schedule

- Step 1. Select one of the topics on page 2. Think carefully before you make your final choice and do some preliminary research so that you know exactly what will be involved.
- Step 2. Notify me of your selection no later than **Tuesday, October 28, 2008**. You may begin "Step 3" before completing this step.
- Step 3. Begin researching your topic and take good notes on what you find. You will need to prepare the following to submit to me no later than **Monday, November 3, 2008** online at Turnitin.com:

PART I – PAPER PLANNING ASSIGNMENT

- Summary: A one to two paragraph summary of what you will include in your paper that gives a specific historical argument (with a thesis statement). Standard writing rules apply. See the Writing Advice Handout online for more information.
- Outline: A basic outline of how you plan to structure your paper, including the specific historical facts that will be addressed.
- Sources: A list of research sources that you have used thus far.

Important note: Even though you are submitting a preliminary outline and source list, you are not limited to what you submit. You may add more to the final version of your paper.

- Step 4. Once I have finished grading your preliminary work, you should begin making the final preparations to write your paper.
- Step 5. **PART II** – Write your paper. Proofread it several times. Ask someone to help you proofread your paper.
- Step 6. Submit the final version online to Turnitin.com **no later than Sunday, December 7, 2008** by 10:00 PM (usual procedure).

Grading note: I scheduled this date to give you enough time after the Thanksgiving holidays to complete your paper. Since it will be received with other research papers from my other courses, I may not have it graded before midterm exams. I may need to use Christmas Break to finish grading.

Topic List

- Antebellum Slavery: Discuss how slavery changed from 1800 to 1860 (nature of slavery, how slaves reacted to their condition, how slaves created their own distinct culture, politics of slavery and slavery's expansion to the west). Argue how that led to the U.S. Civil War.
- Jacksonian Democracy: How did the "Era of the Common Man" and the development of the Second Great Awakening affect the political, social and economic fabric of the United States from 1824 to 1848? (Must use specific examples/historical events)
- Industry and Development: In what ways and to what extent was industrial development from 1800 to 1860 a factor in the relationship between northern and southern states? (be very specific)
- Women: Discuss the changing ideals of American womanhood from the American Revolution of the 1770s to the outbreak of Civil War in 1860. In this paper, analyze the concepts of race and class, as well as the emerging concepts of "republican motherhood" and the "cult of domesticity."
- Westward Expansion: Discuss the westward expansion of the United States from 1800 to the end of the Mexican-American War in 1848. Analyze the political, social and economic effects of the movement west and argue how that movement affected the future of the United States – for both Native Americans and the unity of the nation.
- Political Compromise: Analyze the effectiveness of political compromise in reducing sectional tensions, 1820 to 1860. This paper must include every major political compromise made in this time period.

Source Requirements

- The textbook must be used as a source.
- A primary source must be used.
- At least four substantial outside sources must be used. I encourage you to use the Student Resource Center and the Salem Press American History Database, both linked on my research links page and available from the Bishop Kenny Media Center.
- I also encourage you to consider including a graphic in your paper (map, political cartoon, chart, etc.)

Final Paper Format Requirements

- The final paper should be typed, double-spaced with 1" margins on all sides. Only standard 10-12 pt. fonts should be used.
- Length requirements: No less than five (5) full pages and no more than ten (10) pages. The works cited page is not counted as a page of text.
- Any specific outside information included in your paper, **whether quoted or not**, must have a proper MLA in-text citation.
- A works cited page must be included.

Grading

This project will be recorded in the 20% writing category. Each section will be divided as follows:

Part I – Paper Planning Assignment Counts as 1/3 of writing category

Grade entered 0 – 100

Part II – Final Paper Counts as 2/3 of writing category

Grade entered 0 – 100 x 2

Part I Rubric

0	1	2	3	4	5
Paper topic not submitted on time		Paper topic submitted on time			
No paper summary	Paper summary does not provide any argument or thesis	Paper summary provides a very weak argument; mostly generalizations	Paper summary provides a weak argument <u>or</u> a weak thesis	Paper summary provides an argument and thesis; needs improvement	Paper summary provides a good argument and good thesis.
No paper summary	Paper summary is not well written	Paper summary is somewhat well written; though improvement is needed	Paper summary is mostly well written	Paper summary is well written; only minor writing errors	Paper summary is well written with no significant writing errors
No paper outline	Paper outline provides almost no specific historical evidence	Paper outline provides very few relevant facts to support the argument	Paper outline provides some good evidence, but not enough	Paper outline provides good evidence to support the argument, though more is needed	Paper outline provides a substantial amount of evidence to support the overall argument.
No source list is provided		Not enough sources are provided (does not meet minimum requirements)	Some sources provided	Adequate sources cited	
Sources cited do not meet criteria and/or not adequate for assignment		Some sources are adequate for assignment; though not enough are included	Most sources are adequate for the assignment; some improvement needed	All sources cited are adequate for the assignment	

_____ / 25 points possible

Points received x 4 = Part I Grade

Part II (Final Paper) Rubric

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 to make a compelling argument;
- Historical information presented is accurate;
- Paper is well organized and well written;
- Research sources are used effectively;
- All requirements met;
- 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 (as noted in general comments section of paper)

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 (automatic);
- 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);
- Major requirements not met.

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

- Paper fails to meet the requirements of the assignment; AND/OR
- Paper is completely off-topic.

Point Deductions:

- 3 points for each major formatting error
 - 1 point for each spelling or grammar error
- Point deductions for late papers (see Papers & Electronic Communications Policies document)