

**Instructions:**

In a paper format, address the following topic:

*The Jacksonian Period (1824-1848) has been celebrated as the era of the “common man.” To what extent did the period live up to its characterization? Consider the following areas in your response:*

*Economic Development*

*Politics*

*Reform Movements*

**Format:**

Your paper should include:

- An introduction with a clear thesis (or main idea) that tells how this time period was an “era of the common man”; [Make an argument!]
- Supporting paragraphs that include specific **evidence** (names/dates/facts) and **analysis** (how/why significant);
- A conclusion that effectively wraps-up the argument without being repetitive;
- A works cited page in proper MLA format.

Other requirements:

- **All three topic areas above must be adequately addressed in your paper to receive a high score.**
- Any sources used 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. Failure to do so is plagiarism.
- 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 five (5) pages;
- **Spelling/Grammar:** You are expected as a junior student in an honors course to write well. Proofread! Please refer to the **Writing Advice document online** (posted under documents), as well as the *Writers, Inc.* text.

**Sources:**

As a “free-response” paper assignment, the only required source (other than your own knowledge) is the textbook. However, you may choose to do outside research if you believe it will benefit your overall argument.

**Grading Rubric:**

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RUBRIC FOR ALL PAPER ASSIGNMENTS:

**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 (**FR paper - if used/outside research not required**)
- 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):

**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 (**FR paper - if used/outside research not required**).
- 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  
   - 20 points for each day late

**Final Score** \_\_\_\_\_