

**Special Note: This paper is due November 21st regardless of whether or not I am here. It is to be submitted to Turnitin.com and I will be grading it while I am away.

The Assignment

Select ONE of the following topics:

Option 1 – How did the factory system bring about dramatic changes in the working lives of many Americans (1800-1860)? Which regions and which groups were most affected by these changes, and how did the different groups respond?

In your answer, you must include the following areas:

- Description of the factory system and where it developed (dates/why)
- The textile industry and other cottage industries
- Role of immigration
- Strikes and early unions (only to 1860)

Option 2 – Between 1820 and 1850, what effects did changes in manufacturing, transportation, and communication have on the lives of individual Americans? What effects did they have on the nation as a whole?

In your answer, you must include the following topics:

- Specific new inventions in these three areas
- Changes in farming and industry
- Links between regions and regional specialties
- Overall significance to American politics, the economy and society

Option 3 – The Compromise of 1850 was seen as a way of preventing the issue of slavery from permanently dividing the nation. To what extent was this compromise a failure?

In your answer, you must include the following topics:

- What led to this compromise? (preceding events that made this compromise necessary)
- How the Compromise was eventually passed in the Senate
- The controversy over the Fugitive Slave Act
- Later events of the 1850s including *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the *Dred Scott* case.

Steps to completing this assignment:

1. Decide on a topic.
2. Read about your topic in your textbook and make some preliminary notes.
3. Research the topic using appropriate research sources. Do not simply search with Google and use the first website you find. Use the LINKS page of my website and the Media Center webpage on the Bishop Kenny website. Bishop Kenny subscribes to several research databases that can provide you with appropriate material for this level of college-preparatory work.
4. Make an outline of how you plan to write your paper. Include notes from your research.

5. Write the paper:
 - Write a good paper (using your outline) that effectively answers the question.
 - Begin with an introduction that presents a **thesis** – the main idea or overall argument that address the entire prompt
 - Write good body paragraphs:
 - Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence
 - Present specific historical examples to prove your overall argument
 - Tell why this information is significant to the thesis
 - Wrap-up with a good conclusion
 - **MUST:** Include proper in-text citations for any information gained from an outside source, even if that information is not directly quoted or paraphrased. For example, if you write that Cyrus McCormick’s mechanical reaper fundamentally transformed farming by reducing the amount of time necessary to harvest agricultural goods, you would end the sentence like this (Danzer 279).
 - The last page of your submitted paper must be the works cited page where you include proper MLA citations for any source used or cited in the paper.
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Failure to cite properly is plagiarism and will be treated as such.
6. Proofread! Proofread! Proofread! Do not wait until the last minute to write your paper. Write it well in advance so that you have time to proofread your work. Try reading your paper aloud – does it make sense when you hear what you have written? Ask someone else to proofread your paper as well.
7. Submit the paper on time! Remember, papers submitted late will receive point deductions. See the Papers & Electronic Communications Policies for more information.

Format Requirements:

- Typed, double-spaced and submitted to Turnitin.com
- Margins should be set at 1” on all sides in proper MLA format
- Normal and appropriate fonts should be used at 10-12 points only
- Maximum Page Limit: Your paper should not exceed four (4) pages of text.

Source Requirements:

- Your textbook must be used as a source
- Two (2) academic sources must also be used. These can be books, journal articles or appropriate web sources. You are encouraged to use the following tools to find appropriate sources:
 - The links or research page on our class website
 - The subscription databases provided by the Bishop Kenny Media Center (and available to you online)

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;
- All instructions are met;
- 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 (as noted in the General Comments section in Turnitin)

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
- 20 points for each day late

Final grade and comments will be included in your marked paper on Turnitin.com