

**DUE DATE: Sunday, November 22 (must be submitted no later than 7:50 AM on Monday, November 23)**

**Your paper assignment is to do the following:**

- ✓ Watch a film that is set between 1820 and 1877, from the “Era of Good Feelings” to the end of Reconstruction.
- ✓ Though the choice is yours, the film must be fitting for history. Therefore, “historical spoofs” and comedies should not be considered for this project. In addition, documentaries should not be used.
- ✓ Once you have viewed the film and taken adequate notes, you must research the historical story. Be able to answer the following: **[USE THIS AS YOUR CHECKLIST]**
  - Is the film accurate or at least plausible for the time period?
  - How well does the film portray the actual events?
  - How is this event significant to U.S. history?
- ✓ Write your paper using the criteria below.

**Structure/Criteria of the paper:**

**This will be discussed in class...**

1. Introduction – introduce the historical event and the film; give a **thesis** (What is your main idea? What does the film portray? Is it an effective portrayal of the historical event or time period? How significant is this event to U.S. History?)
2. Describe the film and the historical event (**all three items below must be done effectively to receive a high score**):
  - a. Make an argument for the film’s effectiveness in portraying the event
  - b. Tell how accurate or plausible the film is in portraying history
  - c. Make an argument for the significance/importance of the historical event
3. Wrap-up with a concluding paragraph that summarizes your main idea without being repetitive

The paper should be 3 – 5 pages, typed and double-spaced, using appropriate MLA format. The body of the paper (item 2 above) should be substantial – multiple paragraphs with good complete sentences.

**Writing, Research and Sources:**

Writing: There are two main resources that you should consult for writing your paper...

1. Your *Writers, Inc.* text
2. “Writing Advice for American History” document posted to our class website (**NOTE: you will lose points for specific grammar infractions noted on this document**)

**Remember, as a junior in a college preparatory school, you are expected to write well.** The key to writing well is to carefully plan what you will write and to carefully proofread your final result. Please see me if you need help!

Film: You **MUST** cite the film in a “works cited” page. This should be done in appropriate MLA format.

Textbook: Information in the textbook must be used to describe the historical event portrayed in the film. Use MLA in-text citations as well as a “works cited” page to give credit to the text.

Outside Sources: You need to use at least 2 outside sources, one may be from the internet but one must be from a print source (i.e. book, journal, magazine, etc.). **It is highly suggested that you use our school’s research databases, the InfoTrac Student Resource Center and the Salem Press American History database.** To access these resources, go to the Bishop Kenny website and click on “Media Center.”

**ALL INFORMATION MUST BE CITED PROPERLY, IN-TEXT AND ON THE WORKS CITED PAGE. FAILURE TO COMPLY CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF THE HONOR CODE (PLAGIARISM).**

**Online Submission:** This paper must be submitted online at [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). You should have already enrolled in our class via your existing account. If you need help, please see me immediately.

**Grading:** SEE RUBRIC ON NEXT PAGE

## GENERAL RUBRIC FOR AMERICAN HISTORY

**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.
- Proper MLA format, sources cited correctly.

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

One of the above areas not effective or minor error (as noted):

**Good Paper, score (depending on effectiveness):**      88      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)
- Several instructions/criteria not met.

**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, proofreading or grammar error

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

**POINTS ARE DEDUCTED FOR LATE PAPERS. PLEASE SEE THE PAPERS & ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES DOCUMENT POSTED TO OUR CLASS WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.**