**Research Paper**

Research and writing are integral parts of history as well as being successful in just about anything. To help you on your way to being a good historian as well as successful, you will be writing a 10-12 page research paper on a topic in U.S. History post 1945. (That means you can't write about anything prior to 1945 including WWII or the Atomic Bomb.) Your paper will cover a social, political, or economic event or issue and **its impact** on the United States. This is an argumentative paper, not persuasive. Your thesis must be backed up with evidence not opinion and the language you use should not be emotional.

**There are several steps that you will complete prior to writing the actual paper.**

**Preliminary Assignments:** The process of researching and preparing for a research paper is actually more important than the writing itself. Your goal is to put more time and effort into the research and planning stages of the paper. These assignments are meant to assure student progress towards a successful final project.

**General Topic**: Choose a topic from post 1945 that concerns an economic, social, or political event/issue in the United States that interests you. This is not a biography so you cannot choose a person. I have included a list at the end that you can choose from, but you are not limited to the list. Fill out the preliminary topic worksheet **(5 Points, Due 4/16)**

**Title Page, Research Question, and Initial References**: In an effort to make it easier on you in the end, you will be creating a correctly formatted title page, research question, and initial reference list. You will be able to use this for your final paper if done correctly (with a few changes). The initial reference page must have 20 sources; 1 must be a book and 1 must be a primary source. Of those 20 you must use at least 5 (including the book and primary source) on your final paper. (Not all sources that are on your initial reference page may end up being used in the paper itself, however **you will not be able to add any more**). Your textbook or any textbook does not count as a book source. At the end of each source listed on the reference page you will include an in-text citation for that source. (This is so you will have them correct later on). This will be submitted to turnitin.com **(25 Points, Due 4/23)**

**Title Page, Thesis First Draft and Outline:** Students will turn in a rough draft of their thesis statement and outline. The thesis statement is a statement that should answer the research question that was posed from their narrowed topic. The outline should include at least 25 details with in text citations as well as show the organization of your entire paper. You must use the outline format that was discussed in class. (see below) Outlines and thesis, with a correctly formatted title page, headers, and reference page will be due to turnitin.com. **(30 Points, Due 4/30)**

**First Draft of Paper:** Your first draft will be turned into turnitin.com. This is an entire paper and so should include a title page, in text citations and reference page in correct APA format (if you did the original one correctly you will only have to make a few changes). (5**0 Points, Due 5/11) If your rough draft is not completed and submitted to turnitin.com by the due date, your final copy will not be graded.**

**Final Copy of Paper:** Your final copy will be turned in to turnitin.com. Your paper should answer the research question using a combination of primary sources and appropriate secondary sources. Essay should be double-spaced in Times New Roman or 12 point font with 1 in margins. You will have a title page and a reference page. **(300 Points, Due 6/1)**

**Presentations:** Each student will be presenting their paper to the class. Your presentation must include a technology based visual. This is a separate grade. **(100 pts, Due 6/4-5).**

**Grading for Final Draft**

Format: 10 pts – Paper is written in APA format. This means it includes a properly formatted title page with headers and page numbers, as well as a reference page and in text citations. It meets the page requirement and is in essay format. Font is Times New Roman size 12 with 1in margins. Paragraphs are indented and there is no extra spacing between paragraphs.

Writing/Organization 15 pts

Paper is written with scholarly language. There are little to no errors in grammar and/or mechanics. The information flows and the paper is easily read. The thesis is clear and supported by evidence not opinion.

Content 60 pts

The paper’s thesis is addressed and supported with researched evidence. The topics are richly supported throughout and the reader is left with no lingering questions.

Reference page/citations 15

All sources are properly cited on the reference page and with in text citations in proper APA format. If this is not included your paper will be considered plagiarized and you will receive a zero.

The following is a list of topics that might be of use. You are not obligated to pick from one of these, but they might be a good starting point if you are not sure what you want to do. The questions are there to give you ideas. It is not required that you sue them.

1. **Cold War**: How and why did it originate? What were its effects on U.S. foreign policy? How have attitudes toward communism changed since it ended?
2. **Truman’s containment policy**: How was it implemented by the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and the Berlin Airlift?
3. **Korean War**: What caused the No Gun Ri massacre, and why was it kept secret?
4. **McCarthyism:** What were its causes? What were its effects?
5. **Ethel and Julius Rosenberg**: Were they guilty of spying?
6. **Baby Boom:** What was its impact on American society? (1950s-present)
7. **Brown v. Board of Education case**: What was its impact?
8. **Blacks in Baseball**: How did it affect/mirror the removal of other barriers for African Americans in society in general?
9. **U-2 incident**: What was the effect on U.S.-Soviet relations?
10. **JFK and the Cuban missile crisis**: What were the reasons for the U.S. response? Evaluate the consequences of JFK’s actions.
11. **JFK and the Bay of Pigs invasion**: Why did the U.S. sponsor it? Why did it fail?
12. **JFK:** Evaluate his presidency. Was he an effective president, or simply a nostalgic hero?
13. **JFK’s assassination**: Who was responsible? Were the Warren commission’s findings accurate?
14. **Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s**: Evaluate the tactics and accomplishments.
15. **March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom of 1963**: What was its impact?
16. **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination**: Was James Earl Ray responsible?
17. **Social protest in the 1960s**: What forms did it take? What was its impact on American society?
18. **Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society**: What were its successes? What were its failures? What was the impact of this program on the creation of a welfare system in the United States?
19. **Vietnam War**: How did the U.S. get involved?
20. **My Lai Massacre**: What were the causes? Who was responsible?
21. **Vietnam War:** What was the role of the anti-war movement in changing American opinions toward the war? How was public policy influenced? (Or, What was the role of the media?)
22. **Kent State shootings:** What were the contributing factors? Who was responsible?
23. **Vietnam War**: Why did the United States lose? Evaluate goals, policies, decisions, and/or the role of geography and the nature of guerrilla warfare to analyze the failure.
24. **Vietnam War**: What were the social consequences? Analyze the treatment of veterans returning from the war.
25. **Agent Orange:** Evaluate its use during the Vietnam War and its effects.
26. **1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago**: What were the reasons for the protests, and why did violence erupt? Evaluate the city’s response and the impact on public opinion.
27. **American Indian Movement (AIM) and the 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee**: What motivated the takeover? What was its impact on relations between Native Americans and the government?
28. **Watts’ riot:** What were the causes? What were the effects on race relations in America?
29. **Iran Hostage situation (1979):** What were the causes? Evaluate President Carter’s handling of the situation.
30. **Iran-Contra scandal**: Who was really responsible?
31. **Affirmative action in education or the workplace:** Is it still necessary? Why or why not? Be sure to focus the historical implications.
32. **African Americans in the military**: What significant contributions did they make? How have they overcome discrimination?
33. **Women in the military**: What significant contributions did they make? How have they overcome discrimination? Should women serve in combat positions?
34. **Women’s rights:** How have changes in women’s employment affected their role in society? Focus on one time period.
35. **Oklahoma City Bombing**: What motivated Timothy McVeigh to plan and carry out the attack?
36. **Sept. 11, 2001 attacks**: How did the attacks affect American security policies? How did they impact U.S. foreign policy? How did they impact American views of Islam? Other narrow topics may be approved—see your teachers.
37. **Hurricane Katrina (2005):** What caused the flooding in New Orleans to be so severe? What was the impact of the government’s response? How has the city/region changed since then? What was the political impact?

Directions for Outline

Outline Format

1. Thesis Statement – this is the rough draft of your thesis. It must be a complete sentence.
2. Topic Sentence – this can be a general sentence, but it must be a sentence.
   1. Detail
   2. Detail
   3. Detail
3. Topic Sentence
   1. Detail
   2. Detail
   3. Detail
4. Topic sentence
   1. Detail
   2. Detail
   3. Detail

I think you get the picture. You need to repeat the body paragraphs as many times as you need to. If it says sentence – I am expecting a sentence.

Details should show your research, not just the topics that you want to cover. This will allow me to provide you with some guidance as to what else you might need to research.