U.S. History Research Paper

Researching and writing are an integral part of being successful in your post secondary endeavors. To prepare you for success you are going to be writing a 5-7 page APA formatted paper. The overall due date for this paper is June 1st.

Directions: Choose a post 1945 historical development that has shaped the American society in which we live today. **Analyze the historical development to determine the manner in which it has shaped our society and evaluate its legacy as it relates to the present and the future of our nation**. Express your historical opinion (without using first person) concerning the development of modern America through a thesis driven research paper. The thesis statement, part of your introductory paragraph, should guide your research and the paper you write in support of your historical views.

Due Dates:

Apr 18 – topic – complete the preliminary topic worksheet 5 pts

Apr 27 – Title Page, research question and initial references 10 pts

* Must have at least 15 sources including one book – not your textbook, not an ibook, but an actual book.
* Submit to turnitin.com by class time

May 4 – Title Page, Outline, references 25 pts

* Outline must include thesis and at least 25 researched details for your paper
* In text citations must be included with your details
* In text citations must match those on the reference page
* Outline format is below
* Submit to turnitin.com by class time

May18 – Rough Draft 30 pt

* this is a complete paper with title page, in text citations, and reference page
* Your final paper will not be accepted if this is not submitted on time
* Submit to turnitin.com by class time

June 1 – Final Draft 300 pts

* submitted to turnitin.com by class time
* if this is not submitted you will not pass the class

Jun 4/5- Presentation 100 pts

* you will be presenting your paper to the class along with a technological aid (power point, prezi, etc.) See directions below.

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 support 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.

Outline Format

1. Thesis Statement
2. Topic 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 (the 25 details that you are supposed to have) This will allow me to provide you with some guidance as to what else you might need to research.

Dear Parent/Guardians: Writing is an integral part of being successful in college and beyond. They will be expected to be able to write varying lengths of research papers regardless of their major. As a result of this future expectation, I am trying to make sure your students will be successful.

If your student **does not** submit the rough draft, the final draft will not be accepted. If your student does **not submit the final draft your student will also fail for the semester** as this is a required assignment for this class. If you have any questions, please contact me at 860-695-6988. Please sign and return.

Parent Signature

Student Name

Student Signature

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.

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. **March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom of 1963**: What was its impact?
15. **Social protest in the 1960s**: What forms did it take? What was its impact on American society?
16. **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?
17. **My Lai Massacre**: What were the causes? Who was responsible?
18. **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?)
19. **Kent State shootings:** What were the contributing factors? Who was responsible?
20. **Vietnam War**: What were the social consequences? Analyze the treatment of veterans returning from the war.
21. **Agent Orange:** Evaluate its use during the Vietnam War and its effects.
22. **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.
23. **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?
24. **Watts’ riot:** What were the causes? What were the effects on race relations in America?
25. **Iran Hostage situation (1979):** What were the causes? Evaluate President Carter’s handling of the situation.
26. **Iran-Contra scandal**: Who was really responsible?
27. **Affirmative action in education or the workplace:** Is it still necessary? Why or why not? Be sure to focus the historical implications.
28. **African Americans in the military**: What significant contributions did they make? How have they overcome discrimination?
29. **Women in the military**: What significant contributions did they make? How have they overcome discrimination? Should women serve in combat positions?
30. **Women’s rights:** How have changes in women’s employment affected their role in society? Focus on one time period.
31. **Oklahoma City Bombing:** What motivated Timothy McVeigh to plan and carry out the attack?
32. **Key people in American history**: chose an individual (i.e.: a President, First Lady, leader of a movement, etc.) and discuss that person’s impact on the United States. Get help formulating your thesis so that you do not simply write a report.