

# American Cultures I

## Research Paper

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

### Introduction

As you have most definitely experienced in this class, writing is a huge part of the curriculum. We have done many different forms of writing ranging from descriptive to persuasive. Another form of writing you will be expected to complete which is probably the most challenging but can be the most rewarding, the Research Paper. I know you must be overcome with excitement! Research Papers are one of the most challenging but yet one of the best ways to really show me what you know and are capable of! Let me say though I believe you are all capable of excelling at this any way. With this research paper you may also have the opportunity to teach me something! I know much about history but I do not know all!

### Purpose

The Purpose of this assignment is for you to show that they are capable of conducting historical research and then taking that research and put it into written format. Another purpose of this assignment is for you to choose and then gain a deeper understanding of a topic of your choice. For most of the year you have been only what I and the curriculum call for in American History, for this research paper you have complete control over what you learn. So choose something that interests you!! Trust researching a topic for which you have no interest in is terrible and you will be miserable the entire time. So choose something that interests you!! You can choose a topic that we cover or you can choose something we completely miss or cannot cover. All topic are subject to my approval. I will address that shortly.

### Requirements

You will be writing a historiography of your topic. In other words you will be describing the events of your topic or telling the story of your topic. You will need to have a thesis. The thesis for the historiography is what you believe is the main effect for your topic. You will have to investigate many sources and compile a informative and descriptive paper.

For example if your topic is the American War for Independence, the main effect that would serve as your thesis could American Independence (don't get any ideas just the American Revolution is way to broad of a topic for this very short length research paper, you would have to narrow the topic down). Your body paragraphs should describe the events of your topic or the story of your topic. For example 2 paragraphs can talk about all the taxes and mistreatment the colonists felt leading up to the Revolution. The next couple paragraphs can describe the events of the Revolution (battles, escapes, camp structures, tactics, etc.). The last few paragraphs can explain why your thesis (American Independence) is the most important effect of the American Revolution. Lastly your conclusion should be a strong recap of your essay ending with reminding the reader of your thesis.

There is a page requirement on this paper and as you can see below there is a point value associated with meeting the page length. **You will be required to write at least 3 pages but no more than 6.** The title page and the works cited are **NOT** included in the page total. You will be required to have title page written out in the appropriate Chicago style. Since this is a research paper you are required to do research. Which means you must cite your sources in the appropriate Chicago style. This include in text citations. You are required to use **at least 4 sources.** Your textbook **DOES NOT** count as your printed source. Wikipedia IS NOT A LEGITIMATE SOURCE!!!! Wikipedia and other sites like it can be great ways to gain background knowledge to the topic of your choice but it cannot be used as a source for your paper. Same thing applies to your textbook. Great way to get background knowledge but not a great overall source. The Library has a vast collection of books that you have access to. I also have quite a bit of books myself that I would be willing to lend to you as long as you can be responsible.

## American Cultures I Research Paper

### Requirement Recap

- 3-6 pages (NOT including title page and works cited)
- Title page
- Works Cited
  - 4 sources (online, interview, etc.)
- Chicago style citations (including in text citations)
- Chicago Formatting (12 pt. Font, Times New Roman or Arial style lettering, 1.5 line spaced)

### Breakdown

This paper overall will be worth 160 points. However it is broken down into multiple parts.

#### Overall Break Down

- Prospectus (Proposal)- 30 points (weighted as project- 3rd Quarter)
- Rough Draft- 30 points (weighted as project 3rd/4th Quarter)
- Final Copy- 100 points (weighted as a project 4th quarter)

#### Final Copy Breakdown- 100 points

- 10 points for length
- 15 points for Chicago format
  - 5 points for Title Page
  - 5 Points for a proper works cited
  - 5 points for appropriate formatting (see above)
- 25 points for Introduction and clearly stated thesis
  - 15 for thesis
  - 10 for well constructed Introductory paragraph
- 25 points for strong body paragraphs
- 15 points for a strong conclusion
  - 5 points for well constructed conclusion
  - 10 points for thesis restating
- 10 points for handing in on time and with all required materials
  - Required materials (they should be in the following order):
    - Title Page
    - Copy of Prospectus with my signature/stamp of approval
    - The Research Paper itself
    - Works Cited
  - Stapled together with staple in top left corner (DO NOT give it me in fancy folders or fancy cover I just want the paper with all its materials)

### Possible Topics

See separate list or my website!!

### The Three Part Process

Since this is a very important and challenging task ahead I have broken down into parts, to make more attainable. There are three parts **prospectus** (topic proposal), **rough draft**, and a **final copy**. As you saw previously in this description each part is worth a grade.

#### **Part 1: Prospectus** (3rd Quarter Quiz grade)

So you most likely saw this and started to wonder what is this prospectus??? No need to worry it is not as bad as you think. I promise. A prospectus is simply a formal topic proposal. You must propose your topic to me and I will review your prospectus and approve your topic or not. But don't worry if I do not approve

## American Cultures I Research Paper

your topic I will guide you to where I want your topic to be. The Prospectus allows you to inform me of your topic as well allows you to justify why you want to research it. It must be in paragraph form. And the prospectus does not need to exceed to Your prospectus must contain the following:

Identification of your topic: What you want to research.

Justification of your topic: Why you want to research what you want to research (if your only reason is because "it is interesting" will not be good enough, I need more of a justification)

Background Information: Just a few things to describe your topic

Those above requirements should easily allow you to craft a simple paragraph about your topic. However there is one last thing you are required to have on your prospectus. You must have at least 2 preliminary sources cited in Chicago Style. They should be cited as if they are in your bibliography. The point of these preliminary sources is to show me that you have done some research into your topic.

**Due Date: Friday, March 29th, 2019, by 2:35 pm**

### **Part 2: The Rough Draft (4th quarter quiz grade)**

The next step in the process will be your rough draft. I want to check your progress on the paper. Your paper DOES NOT have to be complete. I will look at what you have at that point. I want to see if you are on track and what you have found through your research. If you do not do this part you will not have the opportunity make corrections if you are a little off track and lose a quiz grade. Can be handed in by a printed version or through email [jjones@hanoverarea.net](mailto:jjones@hanoverarea.net). Late drafts will be accepted at a rate of -10 points per day late. So if you are 3 days (actual days not school day, so in other words any weekend days or breaks days count) late you will receive a zero (0).

**Due Date: Tuesday, April 16th, 2019, by 2:35 pm**

### **Part 3: The Final Copy (4th Quarter project/test grade)**

This is the final step. You will submit a full completed copy with a full works cited page for your grade. This will be counted as a project grade. Remember it is 3-6 pages with at least 4 sources cited in Chicago format. This will only be accepted through a printed out version unless special arrangements have been made. I will be using a rubric and you will receive a copy closer to the due date. Late papers will be accepted at a rate of -10 points per day. After 5 days late I will not be accepting any papers and it will be scored as a zero (0).

**Due Date: Friday May 17th, 2019, by 2:35 pm**

American Cultures I  
Research Paper

**Acknowledgement: Students, please print your name in the blank spaces in the paragraph. Parents/guardians, please sign on the line below, if you have any questions please email me at [jjones@hanoverarea.net](mailto:jjones@hanoverarea.net)**

I \_\_\_\_\_ understand the layout and expectations of this research paper. If I am confused or unclear at any point I will seek out help from Mr. Jones. I \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge that I am responsible for all due date and no exceptions will apply without penalty. I \_\_\_\_\_ promise to myself that I will strive to do my best and succeed on this research paper and see what I can do as a writer!

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Mr. Jones by **Wednesday March 13th, 2019. If returned on time and signed**

American Cultures I  
Research Paper