

List of Possible Topics

So now we come to everyone's favorite part choosing a topic. This is by no means and sometimes can be even harder than the actual paper itself. I wish from the bottom of my heart that I can let you research any topic that you want at any point in history. However we are limited by the scope of our class. Your topic must come from **American History, in the time frame from Colonial America** up to and including **the Reconstruction Era** after the Civil War. So year wise 1400- 1890. There are many wonderful and interesting topics that you can find within this very small time of history. As I said in the beginning of this class history is unique in that there is something for everyone to engage with. I will provide a partial list of topic below based off your textbook. They will primarily be chapter and section titles. You are more than welcome to take one from the list but you are not limited to the list. All topics whether on the list or not will require my prior approval with your prospectus.

Chapter 2-Europeans Establish Colonies

Spain's Empire in the Americas

The French Empire

England's Southern Colonies

Jamestown

The Carolinas

Georgia

Maryland

Native Americans in Southern

Colonial America

Bacon's Rebellion

The New England Colonies

Puritans

Pilgrims

Mayflower Compact

Massachusetts Bay Colony

Salem Witch Trials

The Middle Colonies

Pennsylvania

William Penn and the Quakers

New York

Chapter 3: The American Colonies Take

Shape

Immigration

Slavery

Triangular Trade

Middle Passage

Magna Carta

Glorious Revolution and the English Bill of Rights

Mercantilism

Navigation Acts

Triangular Trade

Enlightenment

Great Awakening

French and Indian War/Seven Years' War

Pontiac's Rebellion

Chapter 4: The American

Revolution/American War for Independence

Causes of the Revolution

Sugar Act, Quartering Act
and Stamp Act

Boston Massacre

Boston Tea Party

Intolerable Acts

Declaring Independence

The Battles of Lexington and
Concord

Battle Bunker Hill, Patriot
siege of Boston

Second Continental

Congress

Thomas Paine, Common
Sense

Declaration of

Independence, Thomas
Jefferson, natural rights

List of Possible Topics

- Turning Points of the War
 - Battle of NY
 - War in the Middle States,
 - Battle of Trenton, Battle of Princeton, Battle of Brandywine
 - Involvement of France and Spain
 - Valley Forge, Baron von Steuben
 - War on the Frontier
- War's End and lasting Effects
 - War in the South
 - Nathaniel Greene
 - Siege of Yorktown
- Chapter 5: Creating the Constitution
 - Confederation of States
 - Drafting the Constitution
 - Ratifying the Constitution
- Chapter 6: The New Republic
 - Government and Party Politics
 - Washington as President
 - Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison (The first American "Frenemies")
 - Hamilton's Debt Plan
 - The Deal of 1791
 - Whiskey Rebellion
 - Struggle over Foreign Policy
 - Americans and the French
 - Revolution
 - Jay Treaty
 - Washington's Farewell
 - XYZ Affair
 - Alien and Sedition Acts
 - Election of 1800
 - The Age of Jefferson
 - John Marshall's Supreme Court, judicial review, *Marbury v. Madison*
 - The Louisiana Purchase, Lewis and Clark Expedition
- Barbary War
 - Impressment
 - Jefferson's embargo
- The War of 1812
- Chapter 7: Nationalism and Sectionalism
 - Industry and Transportation
 - Sectional Differences
 - An Era of Nationalism
 - Democracy and the Age of Jackson
 - Native American Removal
 - Constitutional Disputes and Crises
 - John C. Calhoun and nullification
 - The Bank War
 - Whig Party
 - Van Buren and the the Panic of 1837
- Chapter 8: Religion and Reform
 - A Religious Awakening
 - 2nd Great Awakening
 - A Reforming Society
 - Public school movement, Horace Mann
 - Dorthea Dix
 - Penitentiary Movement
 - The Temperance movement
 - The Anti Slavery Movement
 - Frederick Douglas
 - The Women's Movement
 - Sojourner Truth, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer
- Chapter 9: Manifest Destiny
 - Westward Migration
 - Oregon Trail
 - Mountain Men
 - Texan Independence
 - Mexican-American War
 - James K. Polk
 - Effects of Territorial Expansion
 - California gold rush and 49ers

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California seeks statehood

Chapter 10: The Union in Crisis

Slavery, States Rights and Westward expansion

A Rising Tide of Violence

Personal liberty laws

Underground Railroad

Harriet Tubman

Kansas-Nebraska Act

Bleeding Kansas

John Brown

Violence in the Senate

Political Realignment Deepens Crisis

“know -nothings”

Republican Party

Election of 1856

Dred Scott Decision

Abraham Lincoln v. Stephen A.

Douglas

John Brown’s raid

Lincoln, Secession, War

Election of 1860

Confederate States of America

Fort Sumter

Chapter 11: The Civil War

Resources, Strategies and Early Battles

Advantages of Union v. Advantages of Confederacy

Lincoln’s Original Goal for the War

Anaconda Plan

Lincoln and the Border States

New Technology of the Civil War

Stonewall Jackson

1st Battle of Bull Run

Monitor v. Virginia

McClellan’s failures

African Americans and the War

Emancipation

Antietam

African-American Soldiers

Life During the War

Draft causing riots

War threatens Civil Liberties

Southern Homefront

Daily Life of a Soldier

Women during the War

Turning Points of the War

Siege of Vicksburg

Battle of Gettysburg

George Pickett and Pickett’s Charge

Gettysburg Address

Union adoption of a Total War Strategy

William Tecumseh Sherman, March to the Sea

Election of 1864

The War’s End and Lasting Impacts

Lee’s Surrender

Lincoln’s assassination, John Wilkes

Booth

Reasons why the North Won

The role of Photography in the Civil

War, Matthew Brady

Land Grant College Act

Effects on Society

Effects on Politics and Government