Research Paper

Purpose of this paper:
- This paper is not a report on a topic in history. Instead, it is an argument. Your paper must go beyond describing a topic. It must take a stance, analyze the topic, and support your argument with evidence.
- Your evidence should support your thesis statement. It is important to consider evidence that will disprove other arguments.
- This is a paper, similar to your DBQs in class that will be constructed using documents to support your thesis - not an essay about documents.
- Your paper will consist of clear writing and demonstrate the conventions of English, including spelling, grammar, and punctuation, in addition to knowledge of MLA formatting.

What are the paper requirements?
- 5-7 pages in length
- Times New Roman font, size 12
- 1 inch margins
- Double spaced
- Title page – no heading on the same page as your writing! I have attached a sample title page
  - MLA Citations: Works Cited and in-text citations a minimum of SIX sources must be used and FOUR of them must be primary sources
  - Credible websites ONLY – no Wikipedia, Answers.com, About.com. HINT: look for .edu, .gov, or .org **Also, use the VRC websites discussed in class for valid sources**
  - Your textbook is not a source.
- Rubric must be handed in with your paper. Failure to do so will result in a five-point deduction on the overall grade.
- Examples of primary sources include: Supreme Court opinions and case briefs, speeches, laws, treaties, maps, political cartoons, pictures, diaries, speeches, letters, autobiographies, songs, major documents (Constitution, Declaration of Independence) etc.

What are the due dates?
- Wednesday, March 15th: Thesis statements are due in class.
- Wednesday, April 5th: Research paper is due, both in class and on www.turnitin.com
  - You will lose 10 points for every day that the paper is late
  - Your paper is late if you do not submit it on turnitin.com BEFORE school starts on April 5th (before 7:20 am)
  - If you are absent on April 5th, it must be emailed that day or earlier. In addition, you must submit a hard copy when you return to school. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE. Technical difficulties and printer issues will not be taken into consideration.
  - This will count as an essay grade out of 100!

How should the paper be organized?
- Consider the major historical questions…
  - What is the event/topic? Where does this take place? When? How? WHY? When proofreading your paper, be sure to analyze whether or not the paper answers all of these questions.
• Take a stance – this is provided in your thesis statement. Your body paragraphs should support your thesis with evidence from your sources. You are not just using sources – you are analyzing them. If you are using quotes, don’t leave the quote by itself.

**NOTE:** This paper requires you to give your own thoughts and analysis on your topic of choice. If it is found that you are plagiarizing material, a grade of zero will be given and appropriate actions will be taken. All papers must be submitted through www.turnitin.com.

**How are sources cited in MLA format?**
(Thanks to [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/))

**In-text citation**

• Referring to the work of others is done by using parenthetical citation. After you paraphrase or quote, you must provide the source information in parenthesis.

**EXAMPLES:**
• Book: (Author, page number)
• Website: (Author name, article name, website name)
  o Do not provide full URLs. If you read an article on [www.history.com](http://www.history.com), do not copy and paste the long URL. Simply type [www.history.com](http://www.history.com).

**Works Cited page**

The bibliography page is the last page of your paper. It is an entirely separate page – no parts of your essay should be on this page with your sources.

• Follow the same font and margin format as the rest of your paper. It should also be double-spaced.
• Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent.
• List all sources *alphabetically* by editor/author name.
• Basic format for website:

  Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*. Version number. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available). Medium of publication. Date of access.

**Don’t Forget!:** We will be continuing on with the curriculum throughout the duration of this assignment and there will be essays, exams, review book chapters, and other assignments given in addition to the research paper. Please DO NOT wait until the last minute – practice your time management skills! 😊
Below is a wide variety of topics you may choose from. You may choose another topic not listed below with teacher approval. Remember that for whatever topic you choose, you MUST be able to write a minimum of 5 pages on the topic with sufficient research and a counter argument.

1. The Salem Witch Trials - Were they really about witches or something else?
2. Why was slave trading not stopped earlier?
3. US Constitution
   a. Compare the US Constitution to the PA Constitution
      i. Which provides for greater protection of civil rights?
      ii. Why is that good or bad?
   b. Which US Constitutional right is the most important and why?
   c. Should the US Constitution have been ratified? Why or why not?
      i. Include Federalist vs. Anti-Federalist arguments
4. Washington, Lincoln, or Roosevelt - who was the greatest president?
5. Was Thomas Jefferson more idealist than realist?
6. Was the land stolen from the Native Americans?
7. Did democracy originate on the Frontier?
8. Was the Homestead Act Boom or Bust?
9. Was Andrew Jackson a “great” president?
10. Was the US warranted in annexing Texas?
11. Were free blacks really free?
12. Was abolitionism confined to the North?
13. How successful was the Underground Railroad?
14. Did most Southerners favor succession?
15. Was the Civil War inevitable?
16. How effective was the KKK during the Reconstruction Era?
17. Who really won the Civil War?
18. Was Abraham Lincoln a “great” president?
19. Some historians say that April 1865 in the most important month in US history. Prove or disprove this hypothesis.
20. Was Teddy Roosevelt a radical or conservative?
21. Was Teddy Roosevelt the 1st Conservationist?
22. Did politics kill the Treaty of Versailles in America?
23. Could World War II have been prevented if the U.S. supported the League of Nations?
24. Since the adoption of the 19th Amendment, does the idea of the “glass ceiling” still exist for women in the United States?
25. The Red Scare - was it a legitimate cause?
26. Sacco Vanzetti Trial - How did it portray the tensions of the time period, Xenophobia and paranoia
27. Scopes-Money Trial - What was the cultural impact on the American Education and Educational Freedom? (Intelligent Design)
28. Harlem Renaissance-
   i. Compare to the Beatniks
   ii. Cultural Impact
   iii. Compare to the Hip-Hop Movement (Self-Determination)
29. Marcus Garvey Movement-
   i. Reflect on Black Nationalism/Separationism
   ii. How the movement represented to frustration with the Federal and State Governments?
30. KKK (1900 to Present)
   i. Compare the Rise of the Klan with Poor Economic Conditions
   ii. Connect to the Anti-Lynching Movement
   iii. How the Klan has influence in State Governments?
   iv. Failure of creating legislation to stop the Klan
v. Explain how the Klan declined after the Scottsboro Trial
31. Hoover- Was he a failure?
32. Stock Market Crash of 1929/Dust Bowl- Which had a greater impact on the Depression
33. Relocation of Japanese- Americans- Necessary?
34. The US and the Holocaust
   i. Did the US know about the Holocaust?
   ii. Did the US try to stop the Holocaust? Why or Why not?
   iii. Cold War- the atomic bomb drop and the nuclear arms race (Us v. USSR)
   iv. What was the real reason for dropping the bomb?
35. McCarthyism and the House on Un-American Activities Committee- Was it a legitimate cause? Did he eliminate communism from the government?
36. Did General MacArthur deserve a summary removal during the Korean War?
37. The 1960’s and the Civil Rights Movement
   i. Why was the movement not more radical?
   ii. How did it influence the Baby Boomers? (Political and Social)
   iii. Connect to music of the time
   iv. How did it increase flight to the suburbs?
   v. Compare and Contrast the peaceful and violent demonstration methods? Which worked better?
   vi. What were the five most important events in the Civil Rights Movements? Why?
   vii. Martin Luther King Jr. or Malcolm X, who did more to advance the condition of African Americans?
38. Brown v. the Board of Education Topeka Kansas
   i. Did it guarantee the quality of education
   ii. Did it eliminate Separate but Equal?
39. The Brown Decision or the March on Washington- Which one had a greater impact on the plight of African Americans?
40. Vietnam War
   i. Was it a Nationalist or Communist Movement?
   ii. Why were we not more successful?
   iii. Compare and Contrast to the War in Iraq today
   iv. Was it a poor man’s war?
   v. Did it lead to the downfall of LBJ?
   vi. Why was it so unpopular?
41. Bay of Pigs Invasion- Was it Kennedy’s failure or the CIA/Military?
42. Was JFK a “great” or “near-great” President?
43. The Cuban Missile Crisis
   i. How close were we to Armageddon?
   ii. Explain how Kennedy’s strength lead to Khrushchev’s downfall?
   iii. Was Kennedy a Hawk or a Dove?
44. The Kennedy Assassination
   i. Explain the impact on the nation
   ii. Explain the impact on politics
45. Watergate- Compare and Contrast the impeachment hearing with Clinton’s impeachment hearing?
46. Modern Olympic games and Conflict (1980-Present)
   i. Should the US and the USSR have boycotted the Olympics?
   ii. Politicizing the Olympics (Hitler, Cold War, Today)
   iii. How was the Cold War played out on the Olympic Field?
47. Iran-Contra Scandal
1. Did it undermine the authority of the U.S. government?
2. Who was really to blame?

48. The Reagan Revolution-Explain the shift in voting habits
49. Was the United States (and/or Ronald Reagan) responsible for the collapse of the Soviet Union?

50. The Gulf War
   i. Compare with Operation Iraqi Freedom (Support on the Home front)
   ii. Did it secure economic interests for the U.S.?

51. NASA
   i. Consider the successes and failures, should it be turned over to the private sector?
   ii. Has NASA been a successful government program?

52. 9/11-How has it impacted the United States socially, politically (militarily) and economically?
53. The Sit-ins, Montgomery Bus Boycott, Freedom Riders, and the SCLC had a more dramatic impact on the Civil Rights Movement than any other single event or person.
54. What has had a greater impact on the image of women in America-the Seneca Falls Convention, the Women’s Liberation Movement of the late 60’s, or the Billie Jean King vs. Bobby Riggs tennis match of 1973?

55. Was William Penn a success or failure as the proprietor of Pennsylvania?
56. To what extent did slavery play a role in the Northern colonial economies prior to the Revolution?
57. To what extent did African-Americans impact the Revolutionary War?

58. Who was the most important Revolutionary War era figure:
   Sam Adams, John Hancock, Patrick Henry, John Adams or George Washington? Why?

59. To what extent can the War of 1812 be considered a second American War for Independence?
60. To what extent was the Boston Massacre a massacre?

61. How does terrorism play a role in America’s government today? (domestic or foreign policies; how does it play a role in elections)
62. What foreign nation is the biggest foreign policy challenge to America today?
63. How successful was President Bush’s Global War on Terror? Is it a winnable war?
64. How does would the overturning of ______________ Supreme Court case contradict American ideals?
65. What is the history of the “Black Lives Matter” movement?
66. The 2016 Presidential Election has been very unique. What was so different about this election process? What caused an election/campaign process like this to occur?