

A.P. European History

1st Semester Research Paper and Presentation

This is a very detailed assignment that will take a good part of the whole semester to complete. This is an assignment that you should be working on frequently throughout the semester and checking in with me frequently as to your progress, regardless of what we are covering in class.

Requirements

- Proposal

- Presentation of an acceptable proposal is not the beginning of the work on the research project. Rather, it marks the end of the first major stage of the research process. Before a proposal can be submitted, the student must have identified an appropriate research problem and developed realistic ways of exploring it. The student should realize that preparing the proposal is both a formal and an intellectual exercise.
- Once a general research topic has been chosen, the next step should be to find ways to limit it, give it clearer focus, and shape it into a tightly defined research problem or question. If the problem is too broad, the research is likely to remain superficial. There will simply be too much material for you to investigate. Conversely, the topic may be so narrow that not enough material exists to do it justice. You may find yourself fascinated by a particular topic but discover that there is only one article on it and that it is written in a language you do not read. It is then wise to choose another topic.
- Here are some examples of topics that were at first too broad or unfocused and were subsequently narrowed or focused by the student:

Unfocused: “The American Constitution”

Focused: “Definitions of Libel under the First Amendment to the Constitution”

Unfocused: “American Expatriate Artists”

Focused: “Three 19th-Century American Expatriate Artists and Their Critical Reception Abroad: Sargent, Whistler, Cassatt”

Unfocused: “The Falklands War and Its Impact on the World”

Focused: “The Falklands War and Its Impact on the British General Elections of 1983”

- Your topic needs to be approved by me by the set date with a 3/4-page typed summary of your topic, as well as a paragraph on why you want to research this topic, specifically where you plan on getting your sources from.

- Annotated Bibliography

- Annotated bibliography → a list of resources that includes commentary on the relative usefulness of each resource
- Needs to be set up just like a completed Works Cited page, in MLA style, with a paragraph description under each resource
- Example:

Clark, Nancy L. and William H. Worger. *South Africa: The Rise and Fall of Apartheid*. London: Pearson Education Limited, 2004.

This is a text that explores how apartheid came to be in South Africa, its development, and its eventual demise. This book does an excellent job in discussing political, economic, social, and international issues that led to the creation, and demise, of apartheid. Clark and Worger discuss and illustrate the origin, character, interpretation, and legacy of apartheid. These two authors are both college professors and therefore this book serves as a textbook on the subject. The point they try to make is that one has to understand how and why apartheid came into existence in South Africa to try to understand how and why its demise came about.

- Research Paper

- 12-15 typed pages of content (with page numbers)
- Title page (title of your paper, date, class, name)
- Complete and correct works cited page (MLA style) with at least 5 reputable sources (books, reputable websites, online archives, etc.)
- 12-point font, double-spaced, normal margins, Times New Roman type

- Presentation

- a 20-minute oral presentation in front of the class
 - time does not include questions from the audience
- You need to generate a discussion and involve the class
 - you need to come up with at least 3 questions ahead of time to stimulate discussion during your presentation
 - connections to the greater events of the times and events today would be excellent ideas for discussion topics
- PowerPoint/Prezi presentation (or some other form of a visual presentation aid)
 - must be audience-friendly (ie. animated, easy to follow, easy to read, etc.)
 - must have visuals (maps, pictures, political cartoons, graphs, etc.)
 - must have a video component (YouTube, news clip, etc.)
 - must include a Works Cited page
- You need to have a homework assignment for the class to complete after your presentation
 - needs to be something where students will be thinking critically about your topic and its importance
- You need to have at least one question to ask each presenter on their presentation
 - needs to be appropriate and relevant

Topics

The topic for this research paper and presentation is up to your discretion. It is very wide open and should be chosen with the intent of doing extensive research on an issue that interests you. You should stay away from biographies, though, as you will get much more out of an actual topic. I want to challenge you to pick a topic you don't know much about and want to put a lot of time and effort into finding out much more about it.

The only requirement in this area is that it has to be something that we have covered or will be covering till the end of the semester, which will include:

- Module 1: Late Medieval Era and the Renaissance (1450-1550)
- Module 2: Exploration and Conquest (1450-1550)
- Module 3: Reformation and Religious Wars (1500-1648)
- Module 4: Age of Absolutism (1648-1750)
- Module 5: Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment (1648 – 1800)
- Module 6: Changing Life of the People (1700 – 1800)
- Module 7: French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era (1789 – 1815)
- Module 8: Ideologies and Upheaval (1815 – 1850)
- Module 9: Industrialization and its Impact (1780 – 1850)

We will be up to the early 1900s by the end of the semester, so anything from the Renaissance era, the 1400s, to the early 1900s is acceptable. Some of the topics we have not talked about yet in class, so you will be responsible for learning about them on your own if you choose one of those topics. Your textbook will aid you with ideas on people or events that you wish to delve deeper into.

Important Dates

- Proposal – Due: *Friday, September 16th*
- Annotated Bibliography -- Due: *Monday, October 7th*
- Rough draft (*optional*) – Due: *Friday, December 16th*
- Final copy – Due: *Tuesday, January 3rd*
- Presentations begin: *Wednesday, January 4th*

Rubric

I am giving you a rubric so you know exactly what I am looking for. Please adhere to it.

1st Semester Research Paper Rubric

-out of 200 pts.-

HISTORICAL CONTENT (50 pts.) – How thorough is your research? What is the lasting influence and impact of your topic in Europe? How well do you use your research in a historical fashion? Is your research factual and accurate?

0 10 20 30 40 50 _____

GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATION, SPELLING (15 pts.) – Did you proofread your paper to make sure there weren't any errors?

0 5 10 15 _____

REQUIREMENTS (10 pts.) – Is it 12-15 pages with a title page, page numbers, correct font and size, etc.?

0 2 4 6 8 10 _____

ORGANIZATION (15 pts) -- Do you have a clear thesis? How well does your paper flow? Do you have a clear introduction and conclusion?

0 5 10 15 _____

CITATIONS/WORKS CITED (10 pts.) – Do you have a correctly formatted MLA-style works cited page with at least 5 sources? Do you correctly cite your sources in-text?

0 2 4 6 8 10 _____

TOTAL: _____/100

1st Semester Research Presentation Rubric

Student Name: _____

Topic: _____

CONTENT – How thorough is your research? What is the lasting influence and impact of your topic in Europe? Is your research factual and accurate? How well organized is your presentation? How well do you make it understandable to the audience? (25 pts.)

0 10 15 20 25 _____

PRESENTATION – How well do you present your topic? How prepared and organized are you? Do you have a confident presence in front of the class? Eye-contact and volume? Do you utilize the full 20 minutes? (25 pts.)

0 10 15 20 25 _____

POWERPOINT – How organized and professional is the layout of your PowerPoint presentation? Do you have numerous and relevant visuals? Is it audience-friendly? Do you have a video component that helps the class understand your topic? Proofreading? (25 pts.)

0 10 15 20 25 _____

WORKS CITED PAGE – Do you have a correctly formatted MLA-style works cited page with at least 5 sources? (5 pts.)

0 1 2 3 4 5 _____

DISCUSSION – Were you prepared with a list of questions to spark discussion? Were you able to generate thought-provoking questions? Did your questions connect not only to the time period, but to other eras and even today? Were you able to answer the audience's questions? (10 pts.)

0 2 4 6 8 10 _____

HOMEWORK – Do you have a homework assignment that requires critical thinking? (10 pts.)

0 2 4 6 8 10 _____

TOTAL: _____/100