

Were German Militarism and Diplomacy Responsible for World War I?

This reading selection is from a *Taking Sides* book which offers opposing views on controversial issues. There is a YES argument presented by V.R. Berghahn and a NO argument presented by Samuel R. Williamson, Jr. to the question above. Read the introduction and then both the YES and NO selections, highlighting what you seem to be key parts to each argument.

After reading, take a position from what you have read, as well as what we have read and discussed so far in this unit, and write a persuasive essay over the question, were German militarism and diplomacy responsible for WWI?

Be specific by backing up your position with evidence: statistics, facts, quotes, etc. Don't just argue your point, but also argue why the opposing view's position is wrong or misguided in your view.

Besides the reading, you should also use any readings that we have done so far in this unit to give your argument substance.

Requirements:

- 4-5 pages
- typed
- double-spaced
- 12-pt. font size, Times New Roman font
- must have a title to your paper
- must include specific quotations from the reading that are correctly cited in-text
- refer to the attached rubric for more specifics as to what I will be looking for

DUE: _____

Persuasive Essay Rubric

INTRODUCTION and CONCLUSION (10 pts) – How well did you start your paper and summarize your position? Do you have a clearly stated thesis? How well did you end your paper and summarize your position?

0 2 4 6 8 10 _____

HISTORICAL CONTENT (30 pts.) – Did you use specific examples from the reading and other handouts to back up your argument? Do you use quotes from the reading? Do you argue why the opposing view's position is wrong?

0 10 20 30 _____

PERSUASIVENESS (10 pts.) – How persuasive was your argument?

0 2 4 6 8 10 _____

GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATION, SPELLING (10 pts.) – Did you proofread your paper to make sure there weren't any errors? Correct use of in-text citations?

0 2 4 6 8 10 _____

TOTAL: _____ /60