

Name:

AP US History
Ms. Nielsen

Independent Historical Research Paper

This semester you'll be writing a 10 page research paper about a historical topic of your choice. This might be the longest paper you have written thus far in your academic career, or you may write ten page papers for kicks. To ensure your success and to help you feel more comfortable, we will break up the process into several steps that you will complete over the course of this semester.

- 1) Choose a topic & get approval (done!)
- 2) Collect sources & begin gathering information
- 3) Read, take notes and organize notes
- 4) Outline the paper
- 5) Write a complete draft of the paper
- 6) Edit the paper

Tentative bibliography due: October 14, 2011

- **At least ten** sources. Of these sources:
 - **At least four** must be primary sources
 - **At least four** of the secondary sources must be print sources. Print sources that are available legally online, such as articles on an online database, may be used as a "print" source.
 - Dictionaries, encyclopedias and prior knowledge may not be used as sources.
 - Any interview from interviews, videos, etc. must be properly cited and does count as a valid source.
 - Websites used must be scholarly. About.com, any wiki, yahoo answers and other similar websites are not scholarly.
 - Check out <http://lrc.nwfsc.edu/research-guides/ACF218.pdf> for tips on what counts as an appropriate, scholarly website.
- Properly cited in MLA format
- Typed and on time, either emailed to me the night before or printed & handed in at the start of class

Notes or note cards due (50 points): Thursday November 17, 2011

- Each source must have a note card with the citation in proper MLA format
- In addition to 10+ source cards, you must have 40 note cards with notes from the sources organized by topic. Each card must say where the facts came from, the page number (if it's a print source) and the topic it fits into. Example:

Topic: influence on youth	Cooper, Sheldon
Dr. Cooper suggests that the influence of Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag" on the youth of the 1900s can be compared to the impact of Jimi Hendrix's "Purple Haze" on youth culture in the 1960s (p. 221)	

Outline due (50 points): Friday December 9, 2011

- Must be typed, size 12 format, MLA style

Rough draft due (50 points): Friday January 6, 2012

- Must be complete (half of a paper is not a rough draft)
- Must be typed, double spaced and in MLA format
- Must include an updated bibliography

Final draft due (100 points): Friday January 20, 2012

- 10+ pages of full text (title page & bibliography are not included in the 10 pages)
- Must be in MLA format
- Typed in size 12 *Times New Roman* font, double-spaced with standard 1 inch margins
 - Direct quotes longer than 1 line should be indented as a block quote
- Bibliography must be up to date (if you didn't use the source in the final paper, it should not be in the final bibliography)

Plagiarism & Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is very bad. Any time you use someone's words or ideas without giving them credit, you are stealing their thoughts and that is plagiarism. Whether it is one sentence or the entire paper, it is plagiarism, which will result in a zero on the assignment. This is very serious. In college, students can get expelled or denied their diploma for plagiarism. Professionals such as journalists and scientists have been fired for plagiarism. Puppies cry every time someone plagiarizes.



It is a very serious offense not only because it is stealing, and also because it does not show what you can do. Trying to take the easy way out by copying and pasting means that you are denying yourself the opportunity to develop your researching, thinking and writing skills. Use this opportunity to improve your academic prowess and do not fall into the foul pit of temptation and academic dishonesty.