

Sources Assignment: 2-page Essay Assignment Guide

Learning objectives:

- Develop historical thinking skills.
- Interpret sources.
- Strengthen organization and communication skills.

Assignment

Write a 2 page, double spaced essay based on two primary sources from the library available at teachingamericanhistory.com.

Preparation

Step 1: Determine which class lecture or media journal you enjoyed the most. Essentially, which topic would you like to learn more about?

Step 2: Search for that person or topic on teachingamericanhistory.com. A variety of high quality primary resources will be available to you on this website. Additionally, feel free to utilize primary resources we have covered in class.

Step 3: Select two primary resources that relate to one another. Read the documents carefully. Analyze the sources within the context of time and place.

Writing The Paper

Create a strong thesis statement, and then support the thesis using the two sources. Be sure that background, secondary information is only used to understand the meaning of the primary sources. The evidence used to support the thesis must come from the primary sources.

- Read and analyze the sources.
- Be sure to include a thesis statement at the end of the first paragraph, and then support the thesis with **explanation and evidence** in supporting paragraphs. The essay must be based on the primary sources.
 - Intro – Provide an intro to the sources (historical context of...) For example, who wrote what, when, where, and why? Thesis statement should appear at the end of the introductory paragraph.
 - Supporting paragraphs: One paragraph = one point
 - Explain why the particular source supports your thesis, using your own words. Then use direct quotations from the source to support your

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argument. Note that quotations might require you to explain their meaning since it might not be obvious to a reader in the 21st century.

- Be specific rather than vague. Who did or said what, when, where, how, why?
- Be sure to use quotation marks when using another's words.
- Submit typed essay, saved in Word or as a PDF through appropriate dropbox by the due date. (Essays submitted in the Comments section or saved as an online document such as Google docs or Pages will **not** be graded.)
 - Late submissions: 10 points deducted per day.

Score the Standard	Standard	Comments/Criteria
	Thesis: clearly states the interpretation/argument.	Create a well-developed thesis that can be supported by the evidence.
	Context: clearly considers context of time and place	Demonstrates understanding of an event, person, or idea within historical context; matter at hand is considered and connected to the broader picture.
	Clear: understandable, concrete	Understandable, meaning can be grasped. Present information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
	Precise: specific, exact to the necessary level of detail	Evidence is used to support the main idea or argument. Identify the most significant and relevant facts, definitions, and concrete details for the purpose at hand. Use examples, specifics, or detailed accounts.
	Relevant: clearly connected to the matter at hand	The parts of the paper relate to one another. Every line relates to the whole. Writing clarifies the relationships between claims and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claims and counterclaims

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	Source Analysis	Need to know who wrote the source, or what organization is behind the source. Identify author, time, place, and purpose to determine credibility and context. Recognize how time, place, and perspective influence standards of evidence, objectives, and methods of thinking and communicating.
	Citation	Sources are clearly identified in the paper. References made to the source are accurate.
	Fair: not merely self-serving or one-sided	Various perspectives are considered. The paper is not trying to prove a point that is unfairly biased or that is not supported by evidence.
	Correct: free from grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage errors	Are grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage correct? Appropriate for audience? Are guidelines followed?
	Creative Thinking	Is the work significant? Is it original?

Rubric