

Suggested Topics for Paper

Please remember that you are writing about a topic that historians disagree. The best thing to do is to think about the topic as a question.

Reconstruction: you will need to limit this in some way, for example:

Was it successful? Was it corrupt? Were the freedmen really free?

Gilded Age: examples: Were industrialists good or “Robber Barons”?

Did unions help the working class or not? Were the Populist’s successful or not?

Was America a melting pot or did immigrants maintain their differences?

Did the Dawes Severalty Act help or hurt Native Americans?

Were the Progressives successful or not? Why did America get involved in Imperialism?

World War I: examples:

Why did America get involved in the war? Should America have stayed out of WWI?

Was Woodrow Wilson responsible for America’s refusal to join the League of Nations?

1920s-1930s: examples: Were the 1920s a time of Cultural rebellion?

What caused the Great Depression? Did the New Deal end the Great Depression?

World War II: Why did America get involved in the war? Should America have used the Atomic bomb?

Did World War II lead to the Civil Rights Movement?

Cold War: Was America responsible for the Cold War? Should America have entered the Korean War?

Should America have entered the Vietnam War?

Did Nixon create a “Peace with Honor” in Vietnam in 1973?

Civil rights: examples:

Role of a major civil rights leader (for example Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Cesar Chavez...)

Did the Hispanic Civil Rights Movement bring real change?

Did the Women’s Civil Rights Movement bring real change?