World History

Final Research Paper

DUE Friday, May 31
Final paper: 150 assessment points
Steps along the way: 65 ____________ points

Your final essay assignment this year is a research paper on a topic of your own choosing. You may research and write about any topic that interests you (with Ms. Wendt’s approval), as long as it focuses on some aspect of World History and has a primary focus prior to 2000.

Because of the size of the project and the length of time involved, we will be breaking the process down into a series of milestones. In order to help you pace yourself and spare you the inevitable pain that procrastination would surely produce, the following schedule of deadlines has been established:

**Project Milestones & The Process:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Milestone</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Step #1 Proposal of three topics. Ms. Wendt will approve or deny these topics.</td>
<td>Monday, March 25</td>
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<td>Step #2 Final Topic Selection: a one-sentence statement of what your topic is going to be. This can be written out or emailed.</td>
<td>Thursday, April 11</td>
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<td>Step #3 List of at least 4 reliable sources you will use AND At least 2 pages (notebook or Google doc) or 10 notecards (Noodle tools) with sources cited</td>
<td>Friday, May 3</td>
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<td>Step #4 Preliminary Thesis Statement List of at least 8 reliable sources, including at least 1 primary source. Notes – at least 4 pages or 10 notecards with citations.</td>
<td>Friday, May 10</td>
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<td>Step #5 Rough Outline (what will each paragraph be about?) 10 sources cited, at least 2 primary, at least 1 book; NOTES: 5 pages (Google doc or notebook) or 25 notecards (Noodle tools) with citations</td>
<td>Friday, May 17</td>
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<td>Step #6 Introduction due; Optional rough draft for Ms. Wendt to read and make comments</td>
<td>Friday, May 24</td>
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<td>Step #7 Final Draft due (be sure to go over checklist before submission) including Works Cited page, MLA format</td>
<td>Friday, May 31</td>
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**Library days:**
Friday April 12 (lesson from Ms. Pronovost on library resources), Friday April 26, Friday May 3, Friday May 10, Friday May 17, Thursday May 23 or Friday May 24, Thursday May 30

**Ms. Wendt’s Research Paper Requirements:**
-Everything, with the exception of notes, must be typed

- Final paper: at least 2 full pages in length (double-spaced), with a clear thesis and argument. Must include intro and conclusion and body paragraphs.
- MLA format of paper, parenthetical citations, and Works Cited page.

- At least 10 total sources used and correctly cited:
  - At least 5 total sources used and cited IN the paper
  - At least 2 primary sources (both must be used and cited in the paper)
  - At least 1 book
  - No more than 1 encyclopedia reference
  - Other possible sources (journal articles, websites, etc.)
  - Proper citation format for all sources.
  - Parenthetical citations in the main body of the text
  - Any sources used in the paper must be correctly cited in the Works Cited at the end of the paper

To avoid overwhelming you, I’ll be introducing the process and requirements in pieces, a little bit each week, and we’ll spend time in class discussing many of the steps of this paper and how to complete them effectively. Any work that you do not complete during the library days is your responsibility and must be completed outside of school. You are always welcome to come and get help from Ms. Wendt before or after school.

Other Notes/Helpful Hints:
- Read, read, read!!! Take the time to actually read through the sources you compile and become a mini-expert; you’ll do better.
- Use primary sources whenever possible. Historians use them all the time, and history teachers like when you use them – show that you know how and when to incorporate quotes/paraphrases from primary sources.
- A research paper is not a report; your job is to analyze history, not just research it and describe it. A description of what happened is not a research paper.
- Do not plagiarize. Even accidental plagiarism can earn you a zero on this huge paper and will probably lead to an F for fourth quarter.