

Final 6-8 Page Document Term Paper for Non-volunteers

Non-volunteers are all students who did not volunteer as discussion group leaders or audio, video, or slide collectors. See your class syllabus for when this paper is due

Purpose of this Document exercise:

- To emphasize **primary document** historical research.
- To emphasize that the study of "messy" history involves understanding that every issue in American history has involved disagreements between the people who actually lived that history and requires empathizing with those people's varying points of view.

Topic:

- Choose, research, and write on any topic during the time period that this course covers. Be sure that you pick a topic that really grabs your interest.

It is a good idea to make your topic narrow rather than too broad. For example, rather than writing about "America's role in Vietnam," you could write, for example, about "The My Lai Massacre and Its Effect on American Public Opinion." This is a much more manageable and "do-able" topic. You could certainly take this same narrowed approach if you were focusing on varying viewpoints concerning some aspect of the American Revolution.

- Rediscover and write on the debate that surrounded your topic during the period in which it occurred. (For example, not all Americans agreed on whether America should enter into the American Revolution or World War I. What people or groups made up the opposing sides of the argument? What arguments did the different sides forward? Which of the sides was dominant? How did the debate finally turn out -- and why?)

Paper format:

Important: Keep in mind, this IS NOT a "normal" term paper. If you do not follow this format you will receive a failing grade.

Please follow this format:

Cover Page:

- First of all, you should have a cover page. In the upper-right hand corner, please give your name, course title, and class time.
- In the middle of this cover page, please give your paper title.

The FORMAT for the 6-8 pages after the cover page should include:

I. Introduction First Section:

Your paper should first include one to two pages of:

- A brief background description of your topic.
- Identification of the opposing views that surrounded your topic and the people or groups that forwarded those views.
- A statement of the question that your paper will be asking about your topic.
- A thesis statement about what you intend to prove.
(The above should be in a double-spaced type format)

II. Citations and Primary Documents Second Section:

Your paper should include four to five pages of:

- Excerpts (you do not have to include the complete document unless you think that the entire document is essential to your argument) from eight primary documents that follow one after the other.

- Four of the eight primary documents should give the points of view of one side of the topic. The other four primary documents should give the opposing viewpoints of the debate.
- All of the eight documents combined should be evidence and proof for your thesis that you put in the first one-to-two pages of your paper
- Just before each of the eight documents, put a proper citation where you found the primary documents. (A handout on footnote formatting will be made available to you.)

III. Analysis Section

" After each document provide an analysis paragraph that explains why you chose this primary document selection. (What does it reveal about your topic, the debate that surrounded it, and how it supports your thesis argument.)

Here is an example of one of the eight primary documents, a proper document citation that precedes it, and the analysis that should follow:

Doc. #1:
Susan Ware, *Modern American Women: A Documentary Source* (New York: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1989), p. 335. **(single-space type)**

We, men and women who hereby constitute ourselves as the National Organization for Women (NOW), believe that the time has come for a new movement toward true equality for all women in America, and toward a fully equal partnership of the sexes, as part of the world-wide revolution of human rights now taking place within and beyond our national borders. **(This primary document excerpt should be single space type and indented .5 inch on each side with no quotation marks)**

This excerpt from the 1966 "Bill of Rights of Women" by the National Organization of Women is a classic statement of liberal feminism. Rather than challenging the system, it asks for women's full inclusion into the mainstream of American society. Rather than being antagonistic to men, it strives towards a "fully equal partnership." This represented the moderate voice of the Women's Liberation Movement. Nevertheless, there were many people in 1966 who condemned even these modest demands as too radical. **(This analysis section should be double-space type)**

Doc. #2:
(Continue the same above format)

Doc. #3:
(Continue the same above format)

Doc. #8:
(Continue the same above format)

Keep in Mind:

- Normally you should only include short, relevant excerpts from a primary document that most substantiate your thesis argument. (Notice that the quote from the above primary document by the National Organization of Women is only part of a longer document.)
- If you feel that the **full text** of the primary document, **long quotes, or visuals** are essential to your argument, type the phrase "see attachment" where you would have put the document and then attach it to the back of your paper.

IV. Conclusion Section:

Your paper should include **one to two concluding pages:**

- This is your thesis argument wrap up section. This might include your conclusion and interpretation that explain what historical forces determined the outcome of the debate. Which side prevailed and Why? (double-spaced type)

Miscellaneous Instructions:

- Do not put your paper inside of a fancy folder or binder. Just staple your pages together. (staple them before class and do not expect that one will be provided during class)
- Please number your pages, beginning with the first page after the coverpage.
- Another reminder about line spacing format: double-space your 1-2 page introductory section, your analysis sections that follow each document, and your 1-2 page conclusion section.
BUT, single-space your document citations and document excerpts. Indent your document quotes .5 inches on the left and right margins. Do not put quotation marks around the document excerpt that you have indented (a single-spaced indentation

means that you have directly quoted the source.)

- In your introduction, document analysis, and conclusion, please footnote or endnote anytime that you directly quote, summarize a secondary source, or borrow an idea from an author that you have read. If you do not properly give credit to another author or use another author's words verbatim without quotes you will have committed the serious act of plagiarism and receive a failing grade.
- Giving a proper footnote, endnote, or primary document source means giving a source citation for the book, journal, magazine, web site, etc. where you found the primary document. Do not cite where the original source was found according to the author or book where you found the document.
- Much of your grade will depend on the amount of work that you put into your paper. We will take into account the amount of critical thinking that you put into your topic. We will also assess the amount and variety of research that your paper reflects. For example, you should include a variety of primary document sources, not 8 primary documents from only two, three, or four sources.
- Too much reliance on Internet web sites will be penalized. One of the purposes of this paper exercise is to encourage you to become familiar with university library resources.

Of Extreme Importance:

Much of your grade will depend on the quality of your writing. Be sure to turn in a carefully written, meticulously edited, and polished paper.

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