Assignment Description

Students will write a 600-800 word paper analyzing the contributions of one historical figure who contributed to the early success of the United States. Students will be given a list of historical figures that have impacted the United States from the Reconstruction Era until the year 1996 and will be asked to pick one character from the list that impacted the United States most dramatically. Please scroll to the bottom of the page to see a list of topics. As students develop content for the paper the following should be considered:

- What time period did the character live in and what was his/her contribution to that era?
- What contributions did the character make to the overall character of the United States?
- What primary sources can be found to substantiate your assertion that this character had a major impact on the United States?
- What do historians have to say about the impact that the character had on American History and time period in which he/she lived?
- Do you agree with the assertions of the historians? Why or why not? Evidence must be given to support your point of view.
- What primary sources have you found that substantiate your claims in the paper? What primary sources are used by historians that you reference in your paper to build historical thought on the character of your choice? Please note the primary sources must be clearly referenced in the paper and properly cited in the bibliography page.

Assignment Requirements

- This is an analytical paper not a biography so keep that in mind as you gather information.
- The paper must be written according to scholarly standards—a well-developed thesis supported by thorough research which culminates in a definitive argument that is based on reasoning and facts rather than simple opinions. In addressing the assignment question, analyzing the contributions of a character to the United States, students must also consider both sides of his contributions. What I mean by this is that you must consider both the positive and negative viewpoint of his contribution. This should be done in the paragraph on historical thought on the character.
Papers must have four sources with one of the sources being a primary source. I want to see evidence that you are using historical interpretation of the primary source information in the paper. Students may not use internet sources for the paper but are welcome to explore databases on the Panola library website for authoritative selections.

- Students must use Chicago style for source citations and students must use Chicago style footnotes. Footnotes are to be used on three occasions:
  - Every time a student changes sources
  - If a student does not change sources in a paragraph the last sentence should have a footnote.
  - All quotations must have a footnote. If the paragraph information is gleaned from a different source than what was use for the quotation you should insert a new footnote for the additional information in the appropriate place of information.

- Papers will not be accepted without citation.
- Students must use proper grammar along with proper spelling.
- One inch margins (no exceptions). If the margins on a paper are extremely altered, the paper will be given back to the student for correction and the paper will be deducted one letter grade for each day it takes to make the correction.
- Times Roman Font 12 pt.
- Cover page (Your cover page must include your name, paper title, and class information. **Your name should not appear anywhere else on the paper**. You may have the paper title as a header for every page.) Be sure and see my example in the Exam Reviews and Tools Module.

- Absolutely no plagiarizing. Students caught cheating will receive an "F" on the paper. Plagiarism consists of copying 7 or more words of material without giving credit to the original author. Students who are caught intentionally plagiarizing in the paper by either down loading the paper off line or coping large portions of the paper from another source will receive a grade of “0”. Exemptions may be made for negligence or failure to properly reference a source. These will be judged on a case by case basis. All students are required to submit their work as a word document on canvas where it will automatically be run through turnitin.com. Any paper which registers above a 40% mark on the website will automatically receive a grade of “F.”
Thesis 15pts

Does the paper have a clear, insightful thesis?

- Does it have definitive direction (follow the thesis)?
- Does the paper stay on topic?

Use of Evidence 20 pts.

- Does the paper support its thesis with evidence?
- Is the evidence well integrated in the paper?
- Are primary sources used? Is the primary source effectively interpreted?
- Is the evidence examined in a persuasive manner?

Analysis 15pts

- Is the analysis of the subject fresh and intriguing?
- Does the work display critical thinking skills?
- Does it avoid simple descriptions and summaries?
Logic and Argumentation 25pts

- Does the author consider the views of historians on the topic? Does the author reflect his/her personal insights on what historians think in an academic and professional manner?
- Does the author look at differing views of historians rather than considering only one viewpoint or perspective?
- Is the paper logic elevated to a college, academic level?
- Is the paper persuasive and analytical? Does the paper move beyond biographical information?

Mechanics 25pts

- Is the sentence structure, grammar, and dictation excellent?
- Is the punctuation and spelling proper?
- Is the paper properly cited?
- Is the paper properly formatted?
- Are quotes properly integrated into the paper?

Extra Deductions

- Thesis statement not underlined (-5) _________
- No cover page (-5) __________
- Late paper Penalty (-10 per day) __________
- Under 600 or over 800 words (-10) __________
- Under 500 words (not acceptable paper)--please note that if you are between 500 and 600 words you will still loose ten points.

Plagiarism Penalty ___________ (zero score)

- Not double-spaced (-10) __________
- Missing 1” margins or 12pt Times New Roman font (-10 each) _________
- Missing/improper sources (-10 each) __________
**Topic Choices**

- Al Capone
- Alexander Graham Bell
- Andrew Carnegie
- Andrew Johnson
- Andrew Johnson
- Bill Clinton
- Booker T. Washington
- Buffalo Soldiers
- Calvin Coolidge
- Chester Arthur
- Douglas MacArthur
- Dwight Eisenhower
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- Ellis Island
- Eugene Debs
- Franklin D. Roosevelt
- George Patton
- George Wallace
- Gerald Ford
- Grover Cleveland
- Harry Truman
- Helen Hunt Jackson
- Henry Kissinger
- Herbert Hoover
- Ida B. Wells
- James Blaine
- James Garfield
- Jane Addams
- Jimmy Carter
- John D. Rockefeller
- John F. Kennedy
- Joseph Pulitzer
- Lyndon B. Johnson
- Malcolm X
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Richard Nixon
- Rosa Parks
- Samuel Gompers
- Thaddeus Stevens
- Theodore Roosevelt
- Ulysses S. Grant
- William McKinley
- William Taft
- Woodrow Wilson