**United States History II**

**RESEARCH PROJECT 2014**

Which event or cultural trend had the Greatest Impact on our Nation’s History?

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**(732) 613-6901 x4266**

**H3 & H1**

For this project, you will be responding to the question:

**Which event or cultural trend had the greatest impact on our nation’s history?**

To narrow this down, you will be limited to events or trends that occurred during our current course of study (**from the end of World War II to Present Day**). You will not be permitted to select an event or trend that predates the end of World War II.

Similar to all of your previous research paper assignments in Social Studies, you will be given time in the Media Center (3 class periods) in which to gather resources, formulate your thesis statement, and create the basic structure or outline of your paper. Use this time wisely as the remainder of this paper will be completed on your own time.

We will be utilizing the online database “**Gale: US History in Context**”, specifically their section entitled “**Events, Decades, and Cultural Trends**”. From this list, you may select your event or trend (for many of these events, you may have to read up on the it before you can determine whether this applies. For example, “California Gold Rush” would not be an acceptable event as this occurred prior to the end of WWII).

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**1. Research Prep - October 17th**

**2. Research Prep in H-10 - October 20th**

**3. Media Center - October 27th, 28th, & 30th**

Over the course of these five days, you will be introduced to (refreshed on) “Turn-It-In” which we will be using to upload our work.   
While each of us may work at a different pace, it is important that we stay on target and do not fall behind.

***Expectations while we’re in the Media Center include:***

1. Deciding on your event or cultural trend through preliminary research.

2. Formulating a thesis statement based on your preliminary research.

3. Creating bibliography cards & taking notes from each source.

A. You must use **at least five** sources (combination of databases and at least one book/print source).

B. In order to use a source, you must obtain **at least four** “note cards” or “note logs”.

C. In short, minimum of five total sources & twenty total notecards.

4. Creating your outline based on the material you’ve found which will guide you through the rest of your research paper process.

***Parent Letter: US History II Research Paper***

Dear Parents & Guardians:

Over the next several weeks, our class will be engaged in an American History research paper. This is a major assignment and it is imperative that students remain on target at all times so as not to fall behind. To succeed in this project, students must work diligently on all steps of the research process. This includes completing bibliography cards, notelogs, an outline, and a final paper. Students will also be utilizing the online program, Turn It In & Noodletools, which will allow students to upload their work and receive timely feedback. The majority of this project will be COMPLETED ONLINE. The benefits to this system are that both student and teacher have access to all materials at all times.

Students will be given five class periods to gather material in our Media Center but are strongly encouraged to utilize other resources such as the East Brunswick Public Library. It is recommended that students stay after-school as often as possible to keep up-to-date with this project. This is the most challenging assignment of the year as there is an expectation that students will create their paper largely on their own time. Understanding the historical background, narrowing topics, and locating sources area as challenging for students as the writing process itself.

It is suggested that students designate one specific folder for research ONLY (not your history binder, but a separate folder that either has pockets or can be easily sealed). Keeping your documents organized and adhering to due dates and deadlines will help ensure a successful research experience!

**Parents/Guardians: Please sign below that you are aware of this assignment.** Your signature will count as a homework assignment for your child.

Any questions or concerns, please contact me via email at [kgrotrian@ebnet.org](mailto:kgrotrian@ebnet.org) or (732) 613-6901 x4266

Sincerely,

Ms. Grotrian

**PLEASE SIGN & RETURN BY \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

I have read the following information and I am aware of the impending research paper my child is responsible for completing.

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Parent/Guardian’s Signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT your CHILD’s NAME

**Research Paper: REQUIREMENTS**

**TOPIC SELECTION:**

* Using “US History in Context” → “Events, Decades, & Cultural Trends”
* Any event post WWII

**THESIS STATEMENT:**

* Your thesis statement will be a sentence which takes a clear stand on a debatable issue related to an approved topic in order to form a concise argument.
* HOW TO create a thesis statement
  + Identify a broad, general idea/issue to research
  + Explore and collect the resources for information related to your topic.
  + Develop a more focused interest in your subject - controversies, contradictions, conflicts, etc.
  + Refine research to address a single, more specific issue.
  + Using the information you gathered, write as many versions as it takes to come up with a sentence that sets the direction of your research.
  + Formulate a strong thesis statement that identifies what will be proven.
* EXAMPLES: **Highlighting the debatable phrase**
  + The New Deal’s legacy of government assistance programs has led to the federal government’s **unnecessary intervention** into the social fabric of American Society.
  + General Douglas MacArthur’s disregard of President Truman’s orders **justifiably resulted** in his dismissal.

**SOURCES:**

* All sources must be from an approved online database or book source. ***Depending on your topic,*** you may use approved websites.
  + APPROVED
    - Media Center list of approved sites
    - Any “.gov” or “.org”
    - AP, Reuters, UPN, WP, Breitbart, Bloomberg, CNN.com, FOXNews.com, MSNBC.com
  + UNAPPROVED
    - Blogs/Twitter pages
    - Wikipedia
    - Encyclopedia, reference book, anthology, etc.
    - MOST WEBSITES THAT DEAL WITH YOUR TOPIC ARE UNAPPROVED…
* You must include any URLs from all sources and your citations must conform to the EB Style Manual.

**WORKS CITED**:

* Must be an alphabetized list of at least FIVE (5) APPROVED sources that are actually quoted or paraphrased in the final paper.
* Check EB Style Manual for proper form (mc.ebnet.org or check my Classroom Moodle)
* Please be sure to vary the types of sources that you use in order to get a well-rounded paper.
* Feel free to use *Noodlebib* to assist you in creating your Works Cited. Keep in mind that US History in Context will provide you with the necessary citation.

**ANNOTATED WORKS CITED:**

* In order to show that your sources are well-suited to your topic, you must write a short description:
  + about why the source is worth putting in your paper
  + & describe the credentials of the source
  + EXAMPLE:
    - Tilchin, William. “America Needed Roosevelt,” *Parade* 15 May 1997:1-6. *SIRS Researcher.*
      * Tilchin’s article on Theodore Roosevelt is important because he describes how Roosevelt began a relationship with Cecil Spring Rice, a British representative who encouraged a stronger relationship between our two nations. Tilchin wi a well-known TR historian.

**CITATIONS:**

* Examples are as follows
  + Direct Quote: Theodore Roosevelt historiographer HG Brands believed that “both Democrats and Republicans have come to use TR as an example of the kind of politician which modern elected officials want to be” (Brands 15).
  + Paraphrased Quote: Some historians feel that TR was such an effective politician that members of the Democratic and Republican parties have adopted TR’s approach to politics (Brands 15).
    - Notice that both of the above examples essentially say the same thing, yet one is a direct quote, while the other takes the historian’s words and simplifies them in your own words. ALSO NOTE that in BOTH cases, credit is given to the historian through a citation because the notion was his idea, not yours!
    - *Please be aware of this difference! Most plagiarism occurs through non-cited paraphrased quotes!*

**FINAL PRODUCT WILL BE SUBMITTED PAPERLESSLY!**

* Title page as per EB Style Manual
* 2-3 page typed, double-spaced research paper uploaded to TurnItIn
* Works Cited page (you may use NoodleTools to help with this)

**ALSO BEING SUBMITTED**

* Information packet
  + Original Approved Thesis sheet
  + Original Annotated Works Cited
  + Copy of TurnItIn.com Originality Report

**TOPIC SELECTION:**

**Top 5 Choices:**

**1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**My ASSIGNED Topic** *(I understand I may not get my top choice…)*

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**What do I already know about this topic?**

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**What do I want to know? What more do I need to learn?**

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**Developing the Thesis Statement**

**Steps in Creating a Thesis Statement:**

1. Identify a broad, general idea/issue to research
2. Explore & collect the resources for information related to your topic.
3. Develop a more focused interest in your subject - any particular aspect/controvery etc.?
4. Refine research to address a single, more specific issue.
5. Using information gathered, write as many versions as it takes to come up with a sentence that sets the directions of your research.
6. Formulate a strong thesis statement that identifies what will be proven.

**What a thesis statement should be:**

1. A statement that highlights a special condition or feature of the subject, expressing a specific viewpoint or taking a stand.
2. A debatable topic, not merely a statement of fact (must be arguable)
3. A complete sentence summarizing your point of view on the issue. See samples below

**What a thesis statement should not be:**

1. A topic or subject by itself cannot serve as a thesis statement. That topic may tell us what the research is about, but does not clarify the student’s position on the issue.
2. A question cannot serve as a thesis statement because it is not a statement. A question merely says that an answer will follow.
3. A general statement that lacks a detailed point of view cannot serve as a thesis statement. A general statement may give background information but does not reflect a point of view.

The following examples show how to develop a thesis statement from a broad, general idea. Each step shows a further narrowing of the topic in order to arrive at a legitimate & acceptable thesis statement.

**BROAD -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------> Narrow**

**Ex.**

Depression --------------------------> New Deal -------------------------------------> Alphabet Agencies

**Sample Thesis Statements:**

1. The New Deal creation of the Alphabet Agencies provided stability that relieved severe unemployment and suffering of thousands of Americans.
2. The New Deal initiated a legacy of government assistance programs that led to the modern “Welfare State” and big government’s intervention into the social fabric of American Society.

**REMINDER:**

You write a thesis statement early on to focus YOUR RESEARCH & attention on the subject - not the reader’s.

Therefore, as you do your research, you may wish to modify your position or radically change your thesis. This is OK, BUT you must clear this with me ASAP.

**THESIS STATEMENT PREP**

In effort to start/practice using TurnItIn.com, you will be uploading your thesis statement for approval. Use the space below to jot down your ideas (remember: think big, then narrow down) and then submit your final statement to Ms. Grotrian by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

By uploading to TurnItIn, I’m able to comment/respond in a timely manner. Thesis statements can be changed but again, see me before moving forward with this!

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My proposed thesis statement:

(WRITE IT DOWN SO YOU HAVE IT, BUT UPLOAD TO TURNITIN.COM TO GET CREDIT)