

Paper Assignment

Read the attached documents, the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, and show how at least five ideas expressed in these documents can be traced back to classical antiquity, i.e. Greece and/or Rome. In each instance, begin by carefully defining the idea that relates to classical antiquity. Providing a short quotation from the documents is a helpful way to define that idea. Be sure to describe what the idea means in practical terms. Then, trace the idea back to where it came from originally. After finding the source of the idea, you must provide a general description of that source. For example, if an idea can be traced back to a philosopher, or to a school of philosophy, you need to describe the person and the body of ideas that that person or school believed in. If you find that an idea can be traced back to a political institution, then briefly describe what the whole institution was like. You can find additional information on the ancient sources of your ideas by going to our course website and searching for the source in the online Britannica that is described on the website.

Your paper should be organized in the following manner: 1) introductory paragraph in which you state what the assignment is and how you will carry it out, i.e. "In this essay I will describe..... and explain", 2) at least five individual sections (each being at least two paragraphs in length) in which you discuss an idea and its ancient source. If you want to use a subheading for each of the five sections, that is fine. And 3) a short concluding paragraph in which you offer a summary of what you have discovered. Your paper must be 4 – 8 typewritten pages (in hard copy).

GRADES! Your paper will be graded on: a) how clear, complete and well organized your discussion is (50%), and b) your writing, grammar and spelling (50%). This is a university-mandated writing exercise as much as it is content-related essay. In the past, most papers have had more problems with b) than with a).

TWO THINGS YOU MUST DO BEFORE HANDING IN THE PAPER: 1) follow all of the instructions above as if your life depended on it, and 2) after you have edited your paper, have someone else edit it again for grammar, awkward sentence structure and clarity. Aim to write a paper that is so clear that a High School student with little background would have no problem understanding it. Avoid starting several sentences in a row with the pronoun "The", "This", "That", and "Its."

Do not even think of turning your paper in unless it has been thoroughly edited several times! Your TA's have to read masses of papers and they do quickly become vengeful with poorly prepared papers.