

Criteria	A 90–100	B 80–89	C 70–79	D 60–69	F 0–59 points
Content & analysis	Paper has strong, analytical thesis Paper displays original interpretation of material Paper demonstrates understanding of historical context Paper shows consistent and effective use of three or more primary sources and eight or more secondary sources	Thesis is clear, but More descriptive than analytical Interpretation is not original, but is clearly expressed Paper demonstrates understanding of historical context Paper shows Consistent and effective use of two primary sources and seven secondary sources	Thesis is only descriptive Interpretation relies heavily on other works There are errors in Historical context Paper incorporates one primary source and six secondary sources	Thesis is unclear No interpretation, just description of events Paper shows lack of understanding of historical context Paper incorporates one primary source and five secondary sources interpretation and description of events	There is no thesis Paper shows lack of understanding of historical context Paper incorporates no primary sources and four or fewer secondary sources
Structure and organization	Organization Contributes to effectiveness of argument	Organization is mostly logical, but could use improvement	Organization is confusing; it is difficult to follow writing and analysis.	Organization is poor; analysis and narrative are garbled.	Organization is nonexistent; analysis/narrative do not make sense.
Writing style	Sentences are well-constructed Paper shows excellent word choice Sources are used correctly and integrated into the paper Transitions are clear and easy to follow	Sentences are mostly well-constructed Paper shows Generally appropriate word choice Sources are mostly used correctly and integrated into the paper Transitions are mostly clear and easy to follow	Sentences are often unclear Word choice is often poor Sources are mostly used correctly but are not integrated effectively into the paper There are two or fewer instances of close paraphrasing of sources Transitions are abrupt	Sentences are often unintelligible Word choice has obvious errors Paper shows incorrect use of sources; lack of integration of sources There are three or More instances of Close paraphrasing of sources There is a lack of Transitions	Writing is unacceptably substandard Sources are used poorly or not at all There are four or more instances of Close paraphrasing Paper has no transitions
Spelling, grammar, and punctuation	Paper has zero to one spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation errors	Paper has two to three spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation errors	Paper has four to five spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation errors	Paper has six to seven spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation errors	Paper has eight or more spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation errors
Documentation	Paper has no more than one error in Chicago-style citations (formatting or use)	Paper has two to three errors in Chicago-style citations	Paper has four to five errors in Chicago-style citations	Paper has six to seven errors in Chicago-style citations	Paper has eight or more errors in Chicago-style citations

Tripwires

These are items that you will lose points for if they are (or are not) in your completed submission. These deductions are above and beyond the deductions on the front page of this rubric. While these infractions are seemingly minor they distract from the quality of the paper.

All Written Assignments:

No name (your name) on paper: -2

No cover sheet with identifying information: -2

Not double spaced: -3

Using Wikipedia as a source/reference: -5

Using contractions: -3

Using more than 1 encyclopedia reference as a source: -5 (if there is a valid reason why more than one "encyclopedia" reference is needed you must email me in advance to explain why)

For the Mid-Term Paper:

A minimum of seven (7) sources/references: -3 for each source/reference missing

Not focused on pre-1700 timeframe: -20

For the Final Paper:

A minimum of ten (10) sources/references: -3 for each source/reference missing

Feedback from Mid-Term portion of paper not updated/integrated in the final paper: -10

What exactly is graded on each assignment:

	Thesis & Annotated Bibliography	Mid-Term Paper	Final Paper
Thesis Statement	Graded	Graded (if modified)	
Bibliography	5 sources (annotated)	7 sources (no annotation)	10 sources (no annotation)
Pre-1700 Focus		Graded	
Post-1700 Focus			Graded

Each subsequent assignment builds on the previous assignment. It is expected that feedback and suggestions be integrated into future assignments and errors corrected before the next assignment is submitted. Thus the first half of your final paper should be error free and the mistakes from the first two assignments avoided in the final.