

# AP European History Research Paper

## OVERVIEW

History is a process that consists of two main functions: fact gathering and fact interpretation. You will have the opportunity in this assignment to carry out the same skills and functions that the professional historian undertakes. In this essay, process (i.e. the stages or steps in the research), as well as the product (i.e. the final essay) will be assessed as indicated below.

Students will type a research paper for this class. The paper will be no less than 7 pages and no more than 10 pages.

The first three stages will be worth 100 points each and 100 points for the final paper, all of which will count as test grades.

## STAGES

### 1. PROPOSAL

- This should be a 1 page typed submission stating the following:
  - The background of your chosen topic,
  - A tentative hypothesis with
    - 2-3 arguments or premises that you'll be using to support your hypothesis,
    - Your thesis cannot rehash what is already known. It must be something new and original.
  - Method by which you will support your thesis. Examples could include
    - A list of resources you've been able to locate so far.
    - A discussion about where you will locate more resources.
- **Due December 13<sup>th</sup>**

### 2. OUTLINE

- Your outline should include a **finalized** thesis with supporting arguments.
- A complete bibliography of sources you have researched
- Raw data from your research, and should clearly show your sources, page references, information, and some semblance of organization must be turned in.
- **Due February 21<sup>th</sup>**

### 3. ROUGH DRAFT

- This is a completed essay in rough form. It should be double-spaced for easier editing, reading, and self-correction.
- **Due April 15<sup>th</sup>**

### 4. FINAL ESSAY – **Due May 27<sup>st</sup>**

- This must be the completed and final essay with proper in-text citations in MLA format and a Works Cited.
- Formatting guidelines
  - 1 inch margins, 12 points
  - Times New Roman, double spaced
- All notes will be turned in with your paper

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## RESEARCH STEPS

1. Brainstorm ideas that you might be interested in.
2. Start by reading related sections in your class text. (Use the index!)
3. Prepare for the LMC research. Have a plan.
4. Consult more specialized sources (monographs) pertaining to your topic using history department books, school & public libraries. University libraries are even better.

## SUGGESTED ESSAY TOPICS

When selecting a topic, first consider broad themes such as the major ones in this course. For example:

- Science? - Perhaps considering some aspect of the work of Galileo, Newton, Kepler, Darwin, Einstein, or an essay analyzing the impact of the Scientific Revolution or Age of Enlightenment.
- Art? - Perhaps the contributions of: classicism, romanticism, impressionism, expressionism, modern art.
- Warfare? - The Napoleonic wars, Franco-Prussian War, World Wars I&II.
- Revolution? - The "classic" revolutions - French, Russian.
- Great Leaders - Louis XIV, Napoleon, Bismarck, Mazzini, Mussolini, Lenin, Churchill, Stalin, Hitler.
- Social/Political Movements? - Liberalism, socialism, communism, utilitarianism, Marxism, fascism, industrialism
- Philosophy/Philosophy of History? - Schools of philosophic thought - 1600's to the present and/or specific philosophers and their contributions; the nature of History as an intellectual discipline.

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## Research Paper

Once you've selected one of the broad themes, you'll have to narrow it down to a specific topic. Keep in mind that your essay should not merely describe issues or personalities, but rather offer an analysis and point of view.

- The Scientific Revolution: Beginnings of the Modern Age?
- Enlightenment Philosophers and Their Impact
- Absolutism in Europe: Enlightened or Despotic?
- The Influence of the Philosophes on French History: Constructive or Destructive?
- Deism & Pantheism: New Outlooks through Nature & Reason
- Class Structure in the *Ancien Regime*: Social & Economic Motives for Revolution?
- Political Unrest: The Cause for Revolution?
- The Mob & Peasants: Keys to the French Revolution?
- Louis XVI: A King Who Deserved to Die?
- Reaction and the Directory: An Inevitable Result?
- Napoleon's Ambition: Personal Power or the Welfare of France?
- The Legacy of the French Revolution and Napoleon
- The Industrial Revolution and Its Impact
- The Influence of ONE of the following "isms" in 19th century Europe:
  - Nationalism
  - Liberalism
  - Romanticism conservatism
  - Socialism
  - Imperialism
- 19th Century German Philosophy: Roots of Nazism?
- The Nuremberg War Trials: Fair or Unjust?
- "The Great Man Theory of History" applied to one of the following:
  - John Locke
  - Bismarck
  - Voltaire
  - Hitler
  - Rousseau

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- Churchill
- Napoleon
  
- Philosophers of History & Their Contributions: Theory & Practice:
  - Hegel
  - Marx
  - Toynbee
  - Others?

NOTE: You may create your own topic rather than selecting one of those listed above. However it must be approved by Mr. Androscopic.

## **ESSAY DOCUMENTATION**

"In writing your research paper, you must document everything that you borrow - not only direct quotations and paraphrases, but also information and ideas. Of course, common sense as well as ethics should determine what you document. For example, you rarely need to give sources for familiar proverbs ("You can't judge a book by its cover"), well-known quotations ("We shall overcome"), or common knowledge ("George Washington was the first president of the United States"). But you must indicate the source of any appropriated material that readers might otherwise mistake for your own." - MLA Handbook

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**Level A** Strong thesis; a lot of effective analysis; substantial info; well organized/ written

**Task:** Thoroughly addresses all aspects of the task in depth

**Analysis:** Is more analytical than descriptive (compared and/ or contrasted issues and events)

**Information:** Essay & argument richly supported with relevant facts, examples, and details

**Writing style:** Consistently well-developed, organized, logical essay

**Intro & conclusion:** Theme or task supported w/ strong introduction & conclusion

**Comments:**

100  
98  
96  
94  
92

**Level B** Good thesis; some analysis; a lot of info; acceptable organization/ writing

**Task:** All aspects of the task addressed with a good understanding of the theme

**Analysis:** Is both descriptive and analytical (compared and/ or contrasted issues and events)

**Information:** Essay & argument supported w/ a lot of info, listing of facts; task unevenly addressed

**Writing Style:** Well developed, organized, & logical essay

**Intro & Conclusion:** Supported w/ good introduction & conclusion

**Comments:**

90  
88  
86  
84

**Level C** Satisfactory thesis; simple analysis; some info; acceptable organization/ writing

**Task:** Develops all aspects of the task with little depth or most aspects in some depth

**Analysis:** Is more descriptive than analytical (compared and/ or contrasted issues and events)

**Information:** Essay & argument supported with some information

**Writing Style:** Essay has some body structure with a general plan of organization

**Intro & Conclusion:** Simple introduction & conclusion

**Comments:**

82  
80  
78  
76

**Level D** No thesis; misunderstood question; little info, bad organization/ writing

**Task:** Vague attempts to address all the task or some aspects of the task with some depth

**Analysis:** Is primarily descriptive; may include faulty, weak or isolated analysis

**Information:** Little and/or inaccurate information

**Writing Style:** Poorly developed, unorganized

**Intro & Conclusion:** Missing or off-target introduction & conclusion

**Comments:**

74  
72  
70  
68

**Level F** No thesis; misunderstood question; no info; bad organization/ writing

**Task:** Attempts the task; limited understanding of the theme

**Analysis:** No analysis or evaluation; vague

**Information:** Weak, inaccurate, and/ or lacks outside information

**Writing Style:** Poorly developed; little or no organization

**Intro & Conclusion:** Missing or off-target introduction & conclusion

**Comments:**

Incomplete