

## HIS 106: Independent Persuasive Research Assignment

Please consider topics that you are interested in for the research paper. Keep in mind that this is a persuasive writing assignment. Your research topic should be constructed in the form of a question.

What is persuasive writing? It is a form of writing that seeks to persuade the reader to agree with the author's position on a specific topic. The best way to persuade others is by using evidence and using an objective and unbiased tone. Using an original voice and explaining your reasoning in a clear and concise manner helps the reader to understand your point of view.

For this assignment, come up with questions about the historical content of our class that interests you.

Need additional help understanding how to choose a topic for your paper? Still confused on how to create a question to research? Here is a great resource that might be helpful:

<https://clas.uiowa.edu/history/teaching-and-writing-center/guides/argumentation>

You will write a **5-7** page (not including cover or reference pages) **persuasive essay** on a historical topic of your choice. Your topic must be anchored within United States history from 1865 to 1990.

On Persuasive Writing:

This is not an opinion piece. You are not giving a thumbs up or down on the topic. You must go beyond describing and provide an analysis that shows your understanding of the historical context and the main academic debates surrounding your thesis question. This is a formal academic endeavor. You must use an academic tone throughout your paper. **Please only use formal language and a third-person voice.** Do not "tell" the reader what you are going to do in the paper. Instead, "show" the reader by organizing your paper in the following format:

I. Give an introduction to the paper.

The first paragraph is your thesis paragraph. This paragraph should only include necessary information. You are writing to an uninformed reader, so clearly and concisely assert your thesis and the three or four main points that you will be making to support your position. Each main point should be clearly stated in independent sentences. Finish the paragraph with a transition sentence that leads the reader to the next paragraph.

II. The body of your paper should include specific examples and critical thinking analysis. Use and cite to sources that help you culturally and historical contextualize your arguments. Each paragraph should be properly organized around one main point. You should start each paragraph by asserting the main point you are making. You must use specific evidence from reliable resources as support for your arguments. You must also fully explain your reasoning for the reader. How does the evidence that you reference support your claims? Do not expect that reader to know but rather clearly and concisely explain yourself.

III. The conclusion of your paper should only include a reiteration of your main points and thesis. You should not include new information in the conclusion.

The paper should be written in a logical order following the instructions above, as well as using original and insightful research. Do not label each section. Instead write a persuasive essay that uses proper transitions, paragraphs, and **MLA formatting that includes in-text citations**. The paper should be composed in Standard American English, 12 point, Times New Roman or Calibri font. Double-space your paper and include a cover page and reference page. You must write in a third-person voice. The page requirement does not include the title or reference page.

On Researching:

Please only use academically-sound resources. For this assignment, you should attempt to locate and reference at **3-4 academic sources and one primary source**. You are encouraged to use online resources from the GCC Library and/or **.edu or .gov** domains.

Please note that an academic resource includes articles from academic databases, lengthy articles from governmental and other reliable resources, and online peer-reviewed books. While you are welcome to include content from other resources, such as information from websites that include brief overviews, these resources do not constitute a peer-reviewed academic resource.