

## **A Nice Big History Research Paper (1600-1870)**

Mr. Kersey

Well it's that time again. It's time to show off your amazing research skills and dazzle your audience with your knowledge of the past and your deft use of the English language. It's time for you to write a research paper.

### **Directions:**

1. Choose a person or an event from U.S. History that took place between 1600 and 1870 as your topic. Your topic should not be too broad. Your topic must be verbally approved by me first.
2. Research your topic. Ms. Klinker will work with you on this portion of the project. Follow her directions. Part of your grade for this paper will be based on her evaluation of your research.
3. Complete an outline, word web, or other graphic organizer that you will use to organize the content of your paper.
4. Write a paper on your topic and give it to me.
5. Include a properly format bibliography or works cited page. You must use at least four (4) sources for your paper. The more sources, the more impressed I will be. Ms. Klinker will discuss the guidelines for your selection of sources.
6. Relax. (You can't do this one until you've completed the above tasks).

**Some Guidelines** -Your research paper should meet the following requirements:

1. Your paper should be **4-5 pages typed, doubled-spaced in either a Times New Roman 12 point font, or an Arial 10 point font**. You may only use black ink for the text of your paper. If you do not know what this means, please ask. You may also choose to *neatly* handwrite your paper on regular white loose-leaf notebook paper. If you decide to write your paper by hand, it must be 5-6 pages long, single-spaced. You may only use black or a dark blue ink. **Your bibliography does not count in the above page number requirements.** It is all right if you go a little over the length requirement.
2. If your paper is typed it must have no more than 1 inch margins all the way around the page. If you are unsure how to set margins, please ask. And yes, I will measure if necessary. If you handwrite your paper, you must use the red line on the left and write nearly to the right edge of the paper.
3. If you choose to include photographs, graphs, charts, or any other type of graphic in your paper they do not count as part of the length requirement, although they are still awesome. **Make sure to cite them in your bibliography.**
4. Your paper must have a title page with a title, your name, the date, and your class.
5. No report covers or bindings please. Your paper needs to be stapled in the upper left-hand corner and nowhere else.

6. There should be no spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors anywhere in your paper or the bibliography. Errors will count off your grade in all standard areas. Please proofread your paper. Have me proofread your paper, or your language arts teacher - someone. I'm not kidding here. Really. Proofread.

7. You must turn in a properly formatted bibliography, or works cited page, as the last page for your paper. It should be in MLA format. It must be in the same font, color, etc. as the rest of your paper. You should also include a list of photo or graphic credits if you decide to use any in your paper.

8. Did I mention you need to proofread your paper? Seriously. Proofread. Really.

Failure to meet any of the above requirements will negatively affect your grade.

**Bibliographies:** Your bibliography will need to be in the proper MLA format that your Language Arts teachers have taught you. There are examples on how to do this in your Language Arts books. Remember to record the following information *as you do your research*. Ms. Klinker will go over this in more detail with you.

Title of book, article, web page, etc.

Author's name or names or Editor's name

Publisher

Copyright date

City and State (unless it's a big city, like New York or Chicago)

Date you last accessed a web site

**Important Dates:**

**March 9:** Project is assigned.

**April 26, 27,** and **May 3, 4** are project work days in the tech lab.

**May 1:** Copy of your completed rough draft due with bibliography.

**May 7:** Papers due at beginning of class. No Exceptions.

**Rubric:** Your paper will apply to the following standards.

<b>Mark → Standard</b> ↓	<b>A</b>	<b>B/B+</b>	<b>C/C+</b>	<b>D/F</b>
<b>Standard II: History (50 points)</b>	You completely follow all guidelines and directions. You describe and explain elements of history thoroughly and in detail above the basic requirements and level of mastery.	You completely follow all guidelines and directions with few, if any, errors. You describe and explain elements of history thoroughly and in detail according to the requirements of this project.	You follow almost all of the guidelines and directions, but there are errors or omissions. You describe and explain elements of history but not completely or entirely accurately.	You follow some of the guidelines and directions, but there are omissions or excessive errors. You do not completely or accurately describe and explain elements of history.
<b>Standard IX: Social Studies Skills &amp; Methods (50 points)</b>	Your project is organized according to your outline. Your bibliography is complete and correct. You demonstrate excellent progress and organization of your research and materials. See Ms. Klinker's rubric for more details.	Your project is organized according to your outline. Your bibliography is complete and correct with few, if any errors. You demonstrate adequate progress throughout the research process. See Ms. Klinker's rubric for more details.	Your project is organized according to your outline. Your bibliography may contain more than two errors. You do not demonstrate reasonable research progress. See Ms. Klinker's rubric for more details.	Your project is not organized according to the outline provided or contains multiple errors. Your bibliography contains multiple errors. Your research progress is not acceptable. See Ms. Klinker's rubric for more details.