**10th Grade US History Honors Summer Project**

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**Welcome to 10th Grade US History Honors**

The study of the early history of the United States in Grade 10 forms the foundation for understanding the development and principles of modern American society. Beginning with the earliest explorations of American continents, this course offers a chronological study of major events, issues, movements, individuals, and diverse groups of people in the United States from a national and an Alabama perspective. In addition to gaining essential knowledge regarding this period of our nation’s past, students develop historical-thinking skills, which include chronological thinking, historical comprehension, historical analysis and interpretation, historical research, and analysis and decision making.

**Assignment One:**

**Directions:** Your first task is to write a brief letter of introduction using the text-box below. Tell me about yourself, why did you choose to take an Honors course, and what are your expectation

**Assignment Two**

**Directions:** Read

How Do Historians Study History?

“In fourteen hundred and ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue” is a rhyme many children memorize to help them recall when Christopher Columbus and his fellow sailors sailed westward across the Atlantic Ocean. Columbus was charged with finding a safe western sea route to the Far East. The Niña, Pinta, and Santa Maria, three ships commanded by Columbus, left Spain on August 3, 1492, and laid anchor in the Caribbean on October 12, 1492.

Who was Christopher Columbus? Some **historians**, or people who study events in the past, have portrayed Columbus as a brave navigator whose travels prompted the transfer of plants, animals, and culture—known as the Columbian Exchange—between the Americas and Europe, Africa, and Asia.

More recently historians have suggested that Columbus was indeed a brave navigator, but that with his voyages to the Americas began both the enslavement of native populations and the destructive impact of European diseases across the region. Historical accounts can change over time and create debate among historians as new sources of information are found or old sources are revisited. How, then, do historians determine **credible**, or truthful, interpretations of history? The answer lies in **historiography**.

What Is Historiography?

Historiography is the study of history though an analysis of sources, author’s perspective, and research methods. Historians understand that historical writing may be influenced by current events, personal **biases**, or an unfair preference for or dislike of something, and the availability of credible information.

For example, think about the women’s suffrage movement of the late 1800s. For many years, suffragists had encouraged the United States government to amend the United States Constitution to grant women the right to vote in federal elections. The movement met with strong resistance. However, strongly held opinions opposed to women’s suffrage softened following World War I, and in 1920 Congress ratified the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote nationwide. A document describing the women’s suffrage movement written in 1860 might be quite different from one written in 1920. Moreover, two documents written at the same period in the history of the women’s suffrage movement might present very different views. Historians recognize and evaluate **counterarguments**, or differing points of view, such as those that spanned the women’s suffrage movement.

Interpreting Multiple Types of Sources

Historians analyze causes and effects of major political, economic, and social changes in United States and world history. They read research data critically. They identify and evaluate multiple sources, such as historical documents or news reports. Historians credit ideas and information to sources and authors, and they identify and analyze the main ideas and points of view found in sources. Through a careful analysis of their research, historians develop new and at times competing views of the events that shaped people’s lives. Importantly, they read narrative texts and research data critically.

Historians use a variety of research and analytical tools to explore questions or issues thoroughly and fairly. For example, an historian studying the Vietnam War might read military documents and personal letters, study newspaper accounts and photos, watch documentaries, watch television news reports, or scan the Internet for credible information.

In studying history, historians look for points of agreement and disagreement, assess the credibility of their sources, and provide perspective on how those who wrote history in the past shape our understanding of history today.

**Assignment Three**

**Directions:** Use the previous text above and your own research to answer the following questions in complete sentences. Highlight your answers.

1. What established research methods do historians use?
2. Why is it important for historians to use established research methods?
3. How do history tools also help historians and social scientists develop new and competing views of historical events and of individuals who had an influence on those events?
4. Why is it important to read narrative texts and research data critically?
5. Why do historians divide the past into eras?
6. What are the major characteristics that define a historic era?
7. Why is it important to validate a source based on information about the author?
8. Why might you use a primary source to construct a thesis?
9. Why might you use a secondary source?
10. What is the value of historical maps in interpreting history?

**Assignment Four**

**Society and Reform**

Paper

**Directions:**

Many of the social reform movements of today have roots in Jacksonian America. This paper will allow you to examine a reform movement in both its historical and modern-day context. Choose a reform movement connection below. [*Example: Transcendentalism (then) and Environmentalism (now) is one project topic*]

 (Then) (Now)

Transcendentalism to Environmentalism

2nd Great Awakening to Modern-day Evangelism & Mega Churches

Temperance to MADD/SADD/DARE

Prison Reform to Prison Over-crowdedness/Death Penalty Debate

Mental Hospital Reform to Mental Health Care

Industrial Revolution to The Global Economy

Utopian Communities to Quakers/Mennonites/Amish

Abolitionist Movement to Civil Rights/Affirmative Action

Women’s Rights to Women’s Rights

Public Education to Public Education/vouchers/“No Child Left Behind”

Penny Papers to Wall Street Journal/New York Times/News Sources

Transcontinental Railroad to Amtrak

Gold Strikes/ Gold Rush to Gold Currency

Immigration to Immigration

Technological Innovations to Technological Innovations

**Directions:**

You will write a research paper about one of the reform movement connections listed above. Papers should be well planned, organized, and effective. Each paper should accomplish all of the following:

**Two-page double spaced paper:**

* The 2 page double-spaced paper should be in 12 pt. Times New Roman Font and have a 1” space margin.
* The paper should be properly organized, flow well, contain suitable mechanics, grammar, syntax, and sentence structure.
* In the paper, clearly define the goals of both the historical and modern-day reform movements.
* Name key people, then and now, associated with the movement. Also explain the actions taken, then and now, by its leaders to advance the agenda of the reform movement.
* Conclude the paper by providing evidence of either the success or failure of the movement.

***Additional helpful hint***

* All information should be collected from credible Internet sources, which excludes Wikipedia. Cite all Internet sources on a third works cited page. Be sure to write your paper in your own words. Do not plagiarize any portion of your paper.

**Typed Two-Page Paper Rubric**

* Paper has a title and is two pages, double-spaced, 12pt. New Roman Font, with a 1” margin. /10 pts
* Paper is organized, flows well, and contains proper mechanics, grammar, syntax, and sentence structure. /10 pts
* Paper clearly defines the goals of both the historical and modern-day reform movement /10 pts
* Paper references key people, then and now, and explains the actions taken to advance the agenda of both reform movements /10 pts
* Paper provides evidence of either the overall success or failure of the movement /10 pts

***Helpful resources for writing a research paper:***

* <https://thebestschools.org/resources/how-to-write-research-paper/>
* [*https://slc.berkeley.edu/writing-worksheets-and-other-writing-resources/process-approach-writing-research-papers*](https://slc.berkeley.edu/writing-worksheets-and-other-writing-resources/process-approach-writing-research-papers)
* [*http://www.nhvweb.net/vhs/english/research-paper-manual/ten-steps-for-writing-a-research-paper/*](http://www.nhvweb.net/vhs/english/research-paper-manual/ten-steps-for-writing-a-research-paper/)
* <https://www.potsdam.edu/sites/default/files/documents/support/tutoring/cwc/6-Simple-Steps-for-Writing-a-Research-Paper.pdf>