

## Global History 12 Research Essay

**Outcome:** critically investigate global issues of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries: plan, research, and write a formal thesis-directed research paper using the historical method.

A history research essay is a formal piece of writing based on the development and proving of a **thesis** (argument/point of view) using a variety of **academic primary** and **secondary sources**. It requires you to develop your own opinion and fully substantiate your view with convincing evidence and facts.

### To do:

Select a 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century **global history topic** of interest you, prepare a focused question, and write a 1500–2000 word formal research essay. I have provided a list of ideas below. Please clear your topic with me first before you begin your research. **\*\*Remember your thesis must present the arguments to answer your research question. Each argument is to be supported with convincing evidence and examples from a variety of academic secondary and primary sources.**

### Requirements:

- Length: 1500-2000 words
- *History Essay Guidelines & Writing Analytical Essays* handout followed
- Focused Thesis - your answer to your research question & supporting arguments
- Minimum of **five academic** sources (**primary and secondary**) **must be cited - only 2 academic websites**
- At least **one primary source** must be used and cited
- Academic Internet sites must be used. The author's name must be present.
- Consider using: documentaries, interviews, and data bases: **Ebsco** (username hrsb & password hrsb) & **Modern World History Online** (username cpahs & password cheetahs)
- MLA in text citations with a works cited page - ALL RESEARCH MUST BE CITED or your paper will not be graded. \*See me if you need further help with citations.
- Formal essay (cannot use "I", contractions, slang, or abbreviations)
- Word Count included at end of essay
- Rubric must be attached.

### Important Due Dates:

Topic Chosen & Working Research Question -

Working Thesis Statement & Sources Overview -

Final Masterpiece -

**\*\*You will be assessed on each step of the above process.**

### Possible Topics:

Rise &/or rule of an individual: Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Castro, Gaddafi, Edi Amin, Pol Pot, ...

Causes or effects of a particular war or revolution

Individuals who have made a difference: Martin Luther King, Malala, Gandhi, Craig Kielburger...

Genocide: Armenia, Cambodia, Bosnia, Sudan, famine as genocide under Mao & Stalin (Holodomor), ...

Nanking Massacre

Africville

Syrian Civil War & Refugees

Status of Women in ...

Assassination of JFK

Child Brides

Fall of Soviet Union

Effectiveness of Propaganda

Critical analysis of a film or book

Role of Women in Nazi Germany

Indigenous Peoples and Injustice

Tiananmen Square 1989

Palestine-Israel Conflict

Status of Children - Developing World

Japanese Comfort Women

Chernobyl

Protest Music

Atomic Weapons & Ethics

LGBTQ global issues/topics

Battle of Stalingrad

Nazi Medical Experiments

Berlin Wall

Effectiveness of the United Nations

Canada & Human Rights

Arab Spring & Social Media

Cult of Personality

Kamikazes

## Research Essay Steps:

1. Select a topic of interest to you. Please clear your choice with me.
2. Begin researching your topic. Read, read, and read. Use books and academic websites only. Remember you need to use at least 5 academic sources. \*Remember primary sources and multiple perspectives.
3. Ask a **focused research question** that your essay will answer using relevant and in depth evidence. This will help you to develop your thesis. \*\*If you have too few sources, you will have to alter your focus or change your topic.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Research Question</u>
Fidel Castro	To what extent did Castro's rule do more harm than good to the people of Cuba?
Arab Spring	Analyse the impact of social media on the protest movements during the Arab Spring.
Cambodian Genocide	Analyse the main causes of the Cambodian genocide.
<i>The Pianist</i>	To what extent was the life of Wladyslaw Szpilman in Nazi occupied Poland accurately depicted in the film <i>The Pianist</i> ?
Genocide	To what extent was the Ukrainian famine an act of genocide?
Africville	Why was the relocation of Africville a violation of the United Nation's Declaration of Human Rights?

3. Continue researching - focus on answering your research question. Keep detailed notes and always keep a record of your sources, including the page numbers. You will need this information for citations and your works cited page.
4. Prepare a point form essay outline - include your thesis (the answer to your research question), your key arguments and the evidence (facts and examples) you will explain in each paragraph to prove your thesis. \*\*You will need this for your conference with me.
5. Write and edit a rough draft(s).
6. Review *Essay Checklist & Essay Guidelines* to make your essay has met all of the requirements.
7. Write the good copy and pass in the masterpiece. 😊

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### Sample Research Question & Thesis: Why were the Americans defeated in the Vietnam War?

The Vietnam War was one of the most unpopular and devastating conflicts fought by the United States. As the politicians in Washington set out to win a Cold War battle and fight the spread of communism, thousands of men and women were dying in the jungles of Vietnam. When the war finally came to an end, over 50 000 American soldiers had lost their lives, more than one million Vietnamese civilians had been killed and communism was not contained (Smith 34). By 1973, the United States was forced to withdraw and North Vietnam quickly took control of the South, uniting the nation under communist rule. **The Americans were defeated in the Vietnam War because they were unprepared for guerilla warfare, they underestimated their enemy, and they lost the support of the people at home.**

## Research Essay Evaluation

Criteria	Excellent 10-9	Good 8-7	Progressing 6-5	Needs Improvement 4-1	Marks
<b>Introduction and Thesis Statement</b>	<p>Effectively introduces the topic &amp; sets historical context</p> <p>Thesis statement clearly and effectively identifies your position (answer to the question)</p> <p>Very clearly highlights supporting arguments to be discussed (without providing details)</p> <p>Very smooth flow between sentences</p> <p>Thesis is clear, well focused, and highly significant to the question/topic</p>	<p>Topic is introduced</p> <p>Thesis statement identifies your position (answer to the question)</p> <p>Highlights supporting arguments to be discussed</p> <p>Fairly smooth flow between sentences</p> <p>Thesis is clear, concise, and relevant to the question/topic</p>	<p>Somewhat of an introduction</p> <p>Your position is stated, but supporting arguments to be discussed are not clear</p> <p>Supporting arguments are outlined but position (answer to the question) is not clear</p> <p>Flow between sentences needs improvement</p> <p>Thesis requires reworking to improve clarity and/or relevance to the question/topic</p>	<p>No clear position taken</p> <p>Supporting arguments not clear nor outlined</p> <p>Choppy flow – a bit confusing</p> <p>Much more work needed with respect to answering the question</p>	
<p><b>Content</b></p> <p>Evidence (facts &amp; examples)</p> <p>Depth &amp; Analysis</p>	<p>Insightful, clearly focused, and well balanced <b>arguments</b> in support of your thesis are included throughout</p> <p><b>In depth historical evidence from a variety of academic sources</b> is used consistently and convincingly to support the thesis</p> <p>Highly effective <b>explanations</b> clearly show how the evidence supports the thesis – consistent throughout</p> <p>Different <b>perspectives</b> are well analysed throughout</p> <p><b>Synthesis</b> is well developed with evidence and explanations fully and effectively integrated</p> <p>Demonstrates <b>critical thinking</b> and a complex understanding</p>	<p>Relevant and focused arguments in support of your thesis are included</p> <p>Relevant and mostly detailed historical evidence is present in support of the thesis</p> <p>Explanations show how the evidence supports the thesis, however they need to be clearer and/or more convincing and/or more consistent</p> <p>Some attempt to include different perspectives</p> <p>Synthesis is present, but not always effectively or consistently integrated</p> <p>Solid understanding demonstrated</p>	<p>An attempt was made to include arguments in support of your thesis, however they need to be more relevant and/or focused and/or more convincing</p> <p>There is some relevant, accurate historical evidence, but detail is insufficient</p> <p>Explanations attempt to show how facts and examples support the thesis, but limited and in need of much further elaboration</p> <p>Different perspectives are not included</p> <p>Facts may appear to be “listed”</p> <p>Synthesis is attempted, but underdeveloped</p>	<p>Essay is too narrative or descriptive, you need to present clear arguments in support of your thesis</p> <p>More accurate and/or specific historical evidence to avoid unsupported generalizations</p> <p>Explanations and connections to thesis are not clear or not included</p> <p>Different perspectives not included</p>	<b>X4=</b>
<b>Quality &amp; Variety of Sources</b>	<p>Excellent variety of academic sources used – <b>primary and secondary</b></p> <p>All sources are academic and highly relevant to the research topic &amp; thesis</p> <p>Compelling primary source(s) -well integrated in support of your thesis.</p>	<p>Good variety of academic sources used</p> <p>All sources relevant to the topic &amp; thesis</p> <p>Good use of primary source(s)</p>	<p>Some variety of academic sources used</p> <p>Some sources relevant to the topic &amp; thesis</p> <p>Primary source(s) not included</p>	<p>Limited variety of academic sources used</p> <p>Most sources not relevant to topic</p> <p>Primary source not included</p>	
<b>Organization and Mechanics</b>	<p>Correct spelling and grammar used effectively all/almost all of the time</p> <p>Well constructed sentences, consistent use of effective and historically relevant vocabulary</p> <p>Highly effective topic sentences (each clearly presents a supporting argument), concluding sentences (clearly links argument and evidence to thesis)</p> <p>Consistent and effective paragraph structure: very well organized, logical and clear connections between ideas, appropriate transitional words and phrases, and smooth flow from one idea to the next</p>	<p>Spelling and grammar used with considerable accuracy</p> <p>Most sentences are well structured, good use of varied and historically relevant vocabulary</p> <p>Relevant topic and concluding sentences (clear links to thesis)</p> <p>Good paragraph structure - organized and good flow from one idea to the next</p>	<p>Spelling and grammar require more work</p> <p>Sentences are somewhat well constructed</p> <p>Try to avoid repetitive and/or ineffective vocabulary</p> <p>Include more historically relevant vocabulary</p> <p>Most topic and concluding sentences included, but need to be more consistently and directly linked to the thesis</p> <p>Paragraphs structure and organization needs improvement</p>	<p>Multiple spelling and grammar errors</p> <p>Sentence structure needs improvement</p> <p>Unclear, or inaccurate vocabulary</p> <p>Most/all topic and concluding sentences missing</p> <p>Paragraph structure unclear</p> <p>Much more consideration of organization required</p>	

<b>Conclusion</b>	<p>Strong conclusion leaves the reader solidly understanding your position</p> <p>Effectively restates the thesis</p> <p>Clear and effective summary of supporting arguments</p> <p>Demonstrates your ability to place the information you have learned into a broader context.</p> <p>Leaves the reader with something to think about</p> <p>Very smooth flow between sentences</p>	<p>Conclusion restates your thesis and supporting arguments</p> <p>May leave the reader with something to think about</p> <p>Fairly smooth flow between sentences</p>	<p>Conclusion attempts to restate the thesis but somewhat unclear</p> <p>Summary of supporting arguments unclear or incomplete</p> <p>Choppy flow – needs improvement</p>	<p>Thesis is not restated</p> <p>Summary of supporting arguments not included</p> <p>Unclear how it relates to essay</p> <p>New information is introduced unrelated to thesis</p> <p>No conclusion – the paper just ends</p>	
<b>In-Text Citations</b> MLA Format	<p>Minimum of <b>five academic sources</b> are cited – only two websites</p> <p>All sources (directly quoted &amp; paraphrased) are cited correctly</p> <p>Demonstrates excellent attention to format of Works Cited page – few if any errors</p>	<p>Four academic sources are cited in the essay - only two websites</p> <p>Most sources (directly quoted &amp; paraphrased) are cited correctly</p> <p>Demonstrates good attention to format of Works Cited page</p>	<p>Three academic sources are cited in the essay and/or more than two websites</p> <p>Some sources (directly quoted &amp; paraphrased) are cited correctly</p> <p>Demonstrates some attention to format of Works Cited page</p>	<p>Most sources are not academic</p> <p>Three sources or less are cited in the essay</p> <p>Very few sources cited correctly</p> <p>Demonstrates limited attention to format to Works Cited page</p>	
	5	4	3	2-1	
<b>Formatting and Essay Rules</b>	<p>Meets all formatting requirements: Blank white paper Typed Black ink Double spaced Indent for new paragraph (not an extra line) Times New Roman font Correct page numbering Correct MLA 1st page format Title Word Count included Rubric attached</p>	<p>One formatting requirement is not met.</p>	<p>Two formatting requirements are not met.</p>	<p>More than two formatting requirements are not met.</p>	
<b>Total</b>					<b>/95</b>

**Comments:**