

Course Culminating Activity West & World Research Essay

The research paper is the most challenging task students encounter in senior history courses. Writing a sound historical research essay requires an ability to carry out in-depth research, make effective notes, formulate and defend a clear thesis, apply critical, analytical and creative thinking skills, and organize information in a logical and coherent fashion. On top of all of this, a formal research essay must be effectively written and accurately documented.

Each student must research and write a formal essay of eight to ten pages (2000 - 2500 words).

Students will select essay topics of particular interest to them. Each student must also submit a topic and five inquiry questions for approval.

Acceptable Research Questions:

1. How was Napoléon an effective ruler?
2. Why did Napoléon try to conquer Russia?
3. How did Napoléon continue to embrace the ideals of the

Unacceptable Research Questions:

1. Which countries did Napoléon conquer?
2. Where was Napoléon born, raised and educated?
3. What happened to Napoléon after he was defeated?

Select a topic carefully. Topics that focus on other disciplines or on current events are not likely to be approved. The best work is usually produced when the writer has a genuine interest in her or his topic. Students may not submit the same essay for credit in two separate courses. **NO ESSAY WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE ENTIRE PROCESS!**

THE PROCESS & FINAL PRODUCT

For assistance in the process of researching and writing a historical research paper, see *Legacy: The West and the World*, pages 591 to 599. Each of the stages in the research process is explained with pointers to help you along the way.

Process Step		Due Date
Essay Topic Selection	 WORD  PDF	
Research Notes	 WORD  PDF	
Essay Thesis	 WORD  PDF	
Essay Outline	 WORD  PDF	
Essay Final Copy	 WORD  PDF	

* Adapted from the *Legacy: The West & the World Teacher's Resource*