

AP US History Final Project

Fall 2019

Overview:

Now that we have completed our discussions over new content, you have an opportunity in this final project to revisit one era and one topic that interests you and apply the skills you have learned to “doing history” over that topic. You will focus on an event, issue, or development that is not common knowledge or doesn’t typically make it into textbooks or history classes, but that you believe deserves historical attention. I will provide a list of examples, but you should not feel limited to topics only on that list.

Time:

You will have the remainder of this semester to complete these projects. They will be due on Thursday, January 16, 2020. On that day you will also need to make a 5-7 minute presentation over your topic and your work to the rest of the class.

The Project:

This project will consist of three major components, each with a degree of student choice. It is imperative that you ensure equity of workload and voice in your project teams and you will be asked to explain to me in detail how you accomplished this. Focus on creating a collaborative work approach as opposed to simply dividing up the tasks.

Component 1 - Research:

Your team will conduct research over your topic. Your research should focus on academic sources and primary sources as much as possible. Include NO MORE THAN 2 sources of mass media (magazines, websites, newspapers or sources such as VOX or Slate). You will need to collect your research into an annotated bibliography (see website for examples) using Chicago 10th ed. Citation style. Each source on your bibliography should be accompanied by a paragraph where you summarize the general content of the source and explain what it brings to your understanding of the topic you are studying. For primary sources, include a VERY BRIEF HAPP analysis. Your annotated bibliography should include 15 sources at minimum. You should include at least 3 primary sources in your bibliography.

Component 2 - Report:

Your next task is to synthesize all of this research into some form of semi-formal report of your choosing. This could be a traditional paper, a podcast, a website, or another similar format. You will need to have your choice of format approved by me during one of your team consultation sessions. Whatever format you choose should completely and accurately communicate the facts related to the topic, briefly examine the primary sources and their contribution to understanding the topic, discuss why you believe the topic is of importance and should be more well known, and present an argument of historical interpretation regarding the topic.

Component 3 - Reflection:

For this final task, you may choose to represent your topic in whatever symbolic format you think will be most effective. For this, we encourage you to engage with historical material in a less traditional fashion: you could create a work of visual, musical or spatial art, or consider non-traditional representations of content such as diorama, experience, game, etc. You can see examples from past classes on the class website. The more non-traditional your presentation, the more you want to make sure the connections to your content are meaningful and clear. This will be graded not graded on "quality" of artistry, but on the project's success at communicating history in a non-traditional format. You will need to create a “museum card” to accompany your reflection component explaining how it represents your topic.