

US History Since 1877

Writing Assignment Instructions **Required Assignment**

Each student must produce a writing assignment. This assignment will count as 20% of your overall class grade.

Topic:

The assignment is a personal reflection paper. This means that the subject of your paper is you!

To get you started, here are some questions you can answer, in paragraph format, to talk about yourself. It is not necessary to answer any and/or all of these questions. They are only put here to direct your thoughts or give ideas for your paper.

1. Why did you decide to go to college?
2. What made you choose Lone Star College? Have you attended college at any other colleges/universities?
3. What is your major and why?
4. If you haven't selected a major, what interests you, so far, in school?
5. What interests you in the world today?
6. What is one significant achievement you've made so far?
7. What is your greatest strength and, in contrast to that, your greatest weakness?
8. What are your thoughts on the requirements of History, English, and Math courses in college?
9. Do you intend on transferring to a university after you finish classes at Lone Star College? If so, where will you transfer and why? If not, does your academic path at Lone Star College complete your education?

Think of this paper as a biography of your life or your history.

Paper Requirements:

This paper must be 3 to 4 pages, 1,000 words or more, of text, which will be submitted electronically in D2L only by May 5th at 10 pm. Assignments that are less than 1,000 words will automatically be reduced by 25 points. To submit the assignment, students must log into the class on D2L, select Class Activities, Assignments, and then click on the Writing Assignment folder to upload their paper. Please try to upload your document as a Word file so the system will accept your paper and the professor is able to open the document for grading. No email submissions of the assignment will be accepted. Any assignment submitted after 10 pm on May 5th will automatically be reduced by 10 points for the first 24 hours after the due date and 5 points for each subsequent 24 hour period after the initial 24 hour late timeframe. For example, if you submit your paper 3 days late, your grade will automatically be reduced by 20 points (10 for the first 24 hours, and 10 points for the 2 days after that). No submissions will be accepted after May 11th at 10 pm.

Paper Format:

Each student will format their essay as follows: typed, Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. Submission of an assignment that does not meet these formatting requirements will be reduced by 5 points.

Assignment Guidelines:

The assignment must be an original work of the student. No citations are needed since this is a personal reflection paper and the original voice of the student. If a student uses any direct quotes or material found in other sources, the student MUST cite the work according to the MLA citing format (see Citation in Writing Assignment for example). Students that choose to use sources for their paper will not use more than 3 direct quotes throughout their paper and must include a Works Cited page. Any submission with more than 3 direct quotes or a Works Cited page will have their grade reduced by 10 points. When using direct quotes, ensure that any quote that is more than three lines of text in your paper is indented. Please contact the professor for more information regarding indentation of quotes.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and is not acceptable (see the Academic Integrity section of this syllabus and/or the Academic Integrity & Student Success pamphlet uploaded in the Content section of the class.) All assignments will be processed through the TurnItIn Similarity checker for plagiarized and/or copied material. Any assignment with a TurnItIn similarity percentage above 35% will have the grade automatically reduced by 20 points. To ensure that your assignment does not exceed this 35%, it is in the student's best interest to write their own material.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure their assignment is submitted via D2L by the due date. Any difficulties encountered in posting the submission must be communicated to the professor, via your student email. No submissions will be accepted after May 11th at 10 pm.

Submissions must be proofread carefully. To be eligible for full credit on the assignment, the work must be formatted properly without any syntax (sentence structure) or grammar errors and must be written in simple past tense, when referring to the past. Simple past tense means to write using was, were, had, instead of using could be, to be, may be, should be, etc. Do not use contractions (don't, wouldn't, won't, etc.), abbreviations, and/or profanity throughout your paper. Submissions that present a pattern of such errors will result in a significantly reduced grade (see grade section for more information). Minor syntax and grammar errors will reduce the paper grade by 5 points. Major syntax and grammar errors will reduce the paper by 10 points.

Substance of the Writing Assignment:

First Page:

Students should write the following, centered on the cover page of their paper.

[Student's Name]
Professor Smith
HIST (Section #)
(Semester) (Year)

Citation in Writing Assignment:

If the student chooses to use any sources for their personal reflection assignment, then the sources must be cited in your paper, using MLA style parenthetical citations. Any paper that does not have citations throughout the text will be automatically reduced by 20 points.

Citations in MLA format are the last name of the author and the page number(s) used for the information used in the paper.

Example:

Linda Kerber's *Women of the Republic: Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America* discussed the "origins" of "Republican Motherhood" during the Revolution. Kerber traced these origins from Colonial times through the Revolution (Kerber 11-12).

Structure of Writing Assignment:

You are allowed to write in the first person throughout your paper. Keep in mind to not repeat yourself and/or start sentences using the same words. For instance, you do not want to put two sentences together that both start with I, my, the, etc.

Introduction:

Each student will use their first paragraph to introduce themselves and since it is a personal reflection paper you are allowed to write in the first person. You are the thesis of this assignment so be sure to describe yourself. Along with introducing yourself, mention at least three things that you will discuss in your paper. This lets your reader know what will be discussed about you in the paper.

Body:

The body of the writing assignment will discuss more about the three topics you mention in your thesis of the introduction. Try to keep things in chronological order throughout your discussion; timeline of your life and the order you mention them in your first paragraph. You can choose to write about the questions mentioned in the Topic section of these instructions and/or anything you want me to know as the reader. Feel free to discuss things in as much detail as you want; however, keep in mind to not use profanity in your paper. If you do use any sources, make sure you cite them where they are used in your paper. For instance, if you are talking about a favorite quote or favorite author and want to mention it by paraphrasing the material or directly quote something from their work, then you must use a citation following your use of the material in your writing assignment. Your paper must be written in a clear and concise manner, using proper language.

Conclusion:

The conclusion paragraph must close out the discussion and provided a clear, concise ending to the paper.

Grading of Writing Assignment

Your paper must meet the requirements outlined in these instructions. Grading of the assignment is based on the information below.

Late submission of writing assignment:

- 10 points for the first 24 hours after the due date/time
- 5 points for each 24 hour period, after the first 24 hours beyond the due date

Paper not formatted according to instructions: - 5 points

Writing assignments with minor syntax and/or grammar errors: - 5 points

Writing assignments with major syntax and/or grammar errors: - 10 points

Not using citations throughout the paper, if student uses source(s): - 50 points

Not following the substance guidelines of the instructions: - 20 points

Using more than 3 direct quotes and/or no Works Cited page, when using sources: - 10 points

TurnItIn Similarity score above 35%: - 20 points

Not having clear, concise ending in the conclusion: - 5 points

Paper with less than 1,000 words: - 25 points