**ESSAY 2**

**U.S. HISTORY TO 1876**

**Prompt:**

Explain and analyze a key historical event or process in U.S. history since the American Revolution and prior to 1876. Make a clear, specific argument about why that event or process is important for understanding U.S. history. Use the textbook and at least one primary source assigned for homework in your paper.

**Requirements:**

* 1000-1500 words (approximately 3-4 pages)
* Follow the format from the syllabus
* Cite all material from other sources (including anything from lectures and/or class discussions)
* NO OUTSIDE SOURCES (only sources from this class)
* Be sure to consult the grading rubric on Canvas (under the Rubrics section).

**Possible Questions/Approaches/Resources to Consider (Optional):**

* How do people (including historians) decide what is important about an event?
* Why might perspective (of the source, individual, etc.) matter?
* Go through a primary source analysis (modeled in the Week 1 PowerPoint).
* Use the Thesis Development document available on Canvas (Files section, Course Documents folder).