

Term 2 US History Research Paper

“The hottest places in Hell are reserved for those who, in time of moral crisis, preserve their neutrality.” (paraphrased from Dante’s *Inferno*)

Your Task: Provide an in-depth analysis of a social justice movement in American history, with a focus on the last 50 years.

(Remember, to analyze is not only to describe how all the parts of something make the whole, but also to discuss AND evaluate their interaction.)

Purposes:

1. Prepare for college-level academic research and writing.
2. Further develop students’ understanding of recent American history.

Elements (each will be a headed section and start on a new page):

1. **Heading and Abstract (1 page)**
2. **Annotated Bibliography (1-2 pages – using provided template)**
 - a. *Central question:* What have others said about the social justice movement you’re studying?
 - i. Use template to analyze 1 opinion piece and 1 academic article
3. **Historical Background and Analysis (with focus on the last 50 years of American history) (min. 3 pages)**
 - a. *Central question:* How did this movement develop in the context of American history?
 - b. *Maximum* 1/3 of writing should cover pre-1970 material
4. **Biographical Analysis of a Key Historical Figure (from the last 50 years) (min. 3 pages).**
 - a. *Central question:* How did/has one individual influence/d the social justice movement and American history?
5. **Personal Reflection and Prescriptions for the Future (min. 2 pages) (questions provided)**
6. **Full length Bibliography**
 - a. MLA format; **all** sources that went into expanding your knowledge during this project (NOT just those cited in your paper)
 - b. Include 2 print sources, minimum.

Very Important Dates:

Mandatory A-Block (choose one): March 28, 29, 30

Historical Analysis Outline: Monday, April 10

Biographical Analysis Outline: Monday, April 24

Annotated Bib Sources Chosen: Monday, May 8

Mandatory A-Block (if sources NOT approved): Tuesday, May 9

FINAL DRAFT (electronic): Friday, June 2, 10 PM (printed: Tuesday, June 6)

FAQs:

*What’s the overall format? **MLA format (so yes, it will be double spaced)**

*What’s the difference between a Works Cited and a Bibliography? **A full-length bibliography includes ALL of the sources you used to expand your knowledge during this project. A Works Cited only contains those which you cite in the paper.**

*Can I do the same topic as my friend, sibling, cousin? **You can study the same MOVEMENT, but not the same biographical figure**

*When do we have to choose our topic and biographical figure? **By Friday, March 24.**