



Please Cite Accordingly:

Keller-Lapp, H. (2016). Wikipedia assignment. *Regional-DH.SDSU.edu*

Final Research Paper Draft Prompt

Length: 8-10 pages (undergrads); 8-12 pages (grads) – not counting Bibliography/Works Cited page

Due: Monday, May 2

Below is a list of the criteria your final draft should meet. Most important are the substantive aspects, such as the quality of your thesis and the appropriateness of your evidence, but the mechanical concerns—spelling, grammar, and so forth—also matter. You must also be very careful to give credit to all of your sources, even those you do not quote or paraphrase directly.

Your introductory paragraph(s) should include:

- An indication of your topic
- The scholarly and historical context of your research
- The problem and question you are addressing
- Your thesis statement
- An indication of the significance of your topic and question (the “so what?”)

Your question should be:

- Open-ended
- Amenable to scholarly research
- Appropriate to the course concerns and historical period covered in the course

Your thesis should be:

- An answer to the question that you pose
- Arguable
- Amplly supported with evidence

Your concluding paragraph(s) should:

- Summarize your argument
- Reiterate and elaborate on your “so what?”
- Explain the significance of your thesis

When presenting your evidence you should:

- Explain *which* of your claims each piece of evidence supports
- Explain *how* the evidence supports your claims
- Acknowledge your sources clearly and correctly, whether you quote or paraphrase an author’s words or merely draw upon an author’s ideas
- Use direct quotation sparingly and only when necessary
- Make sure that all of the information you present is factually correct

When addressing counterarguments or alternative interpretations you should:

- Acknowledge the scholars whose positions differ from yours
- Explain how each counterargument differs from your own claims
- Present the evidence that supports each counterargument
- Rebut each counterargument (i.e., explain why your claims are stronger)



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Overall, your paper will succeed if you:

- Clearly define the historical and geographical context of your topic
- Situate yourself within an ongoing academic conversation
- Present a persuasively argued point that is amply supported with relevant evidence
- Acknowledge points of view other than your own
- Discuss the significance of your claims
- Organize your paper well and write with your readers' needs in mind (e.g., by providing transitions and topic sentences to help readers to follow your train of reasoning, defining unfamiliar terms, providing vivid, concrete examples, and so forth)
- Check for all formatting issues

Please use 12-point, Times Roman type, and make sure that your type is dark enough that your TA will actually be able to read it.

Bibliography/Works Cited

Your paper must have a **Bibliography** or list of **Works Cited** that includes complete Chicago or MLA-style citations for all of the works you cite in your paper. You do not have to include entries for works you do not cite, but bear in mind that "citation" means not only direct quotations and paraphrases but also all statements of observation and opinion that are in your own words but that are indebted to other authors for their content. In other words: when in doubt, give credit to your sources.

Portfolio of Previously-Graded Work

When you turn in your final draft, you must also turn in a portfolio of all of the assignments you have completed this quarter, including all of the papers on which your TA has commented and the copies of your rough draft on which your peers have commented.

Turnitin.Com

You must submit your final paper to Turnitin.com by midnight on Monday, May 2. Submission instructions will be provided in a separate handout and posted to Blackboard. Late penalties apply.

Submission Checklist:

- _____ Final Paper
- _____ Bibliography/Works Cited page
- _____ Portfolio of your previously-graded work and ungraded rough drafts
- _____ Printed Grading Rubric
- _____ Turnitin.com Submission