Introduction: The purpose of this assignment is to introduce students to the research process as they explore a topic in Global History in more detail. After choosing a unit of interest to study, students will be guided through developing a research question which they will need to gather sources for and ultimately answer in a formal paper. Process, paper specifications, and deadlines are below.

Process:
1. Topic Selection/Research Question- Students will work in small groups to develop a list of possible research questions within their selected topic.
2. Research: Gather at least four sources using the school databases and library books.
3. Rough Draft: Write a two page rough draft to bring to class for a peer editing session.
4. Final Paper: Complete a final paper that follows the specifications below.

Paper Specifications
- 3-4 typed pages, double spaced with one inch margins
- Use standard font, either Times New Roman, Arial or Calibri
- Title Page should include research question, name, date, period, teacher (not to be counted towards paper length)
- Works Cited page/Bibliography MUST be included (not to be counted towards paper length)
- In-text MLA citations

Additional Information
- The following is a list of acceptable sources for a formal history paper:
  - Primary Source Material (from your topic’s period) – where appropriate incorporate first-hand accounts
  - Secondary Print Sources - use at least 2 books/scholarly journal articles that are not encyclopedias
  - Acceptable Websites - you may use websites that contain credible information, give credit to an author, or are sponsored by educational groups. Acceptable web addresses end in “.edu”, “.org” or “.gov” and contain information that is more acceptable for a research paper because it has been through an evaluative process. Internet research must be completed on your own time, not during our library research days. You may use one website for every print source you have. (Online encyclopedias are not acceptable sources - this includes Wikipedia.)
- Although some class time will be spent on topic selection, research question development, and preliminary selection of sources, it will be necessary to use some of your own time to research this paper. Class time will not be given to write the paper - it must be done at home.
- When handing in the final draft of the paper, please do not use any form of report covers.

Paper must be handed in on the due date (even if you are absent). Late papers will result in grade penalty.

POSSIBLE TOPICS:
1. River Valleys
2. Ancient Greece (wars, democracy in Athens)
3. Ancient Rome (expansion, Caesar, fall of Rome, Christianity in Rome)
4. Belief systems (impact on social order in a region, gender roles)
5. Middle Ages (feudalism, manors, gender roles, Crusades, bubonic plague)
6. Islamic Empires (expansion, Suleiman, ethnic minorities)
Bibliography guidelines

- Put in alphabetical order by the first word listed in each entry
- Use a hanging indent throughout (all but the first line of each entry is indented)
- Don’t number or bullet point each entry
- Don’t label the type of sources used

Book

Book in a Series

Book with Multiple Authors

Book with Editor Instead of Author

Website

When to Use a Citation:
1) All direct quotes
2) Any uncommonly known facts - facts that can’t be found in multiple sources
3) Opinions - someone else’s opinions, ideas, or research (includes material you have paraphrased)

How to Format a Citation:
As you are conducting your research make sure to compile your bibliography. When you are writing your paper and you use information or a quote from one of your sources, place a citation at the end of the sentence. In parenthesis, take the first word that is listed for that source in the bibliography. If it is a print source, put the page number in the book where that information is found. Since the citation is part of the sentence, the punctuation goes after the citation.

Examples:

- Book, author listed (Manchester, 27).
- Book, no author (Canterbury, 52).
- Title of Article (“Chaucer,” 105).
- Internet, author listed (Smith).
- Internet, no author listed (“Feudalism”).

(handout source: [www.amyrosenberg.org](http://www.amyrosenberg.org))
RESEARCH PAPER RUBRIC

5 (93-100%)
- Thoroughly addresses the assignment and includes a concise thesis that addresses the research question completely
- Text introduces an arguable claim and takes a clear position supported throughout paper with substantial relevant evidence that supports writer’s argument and addresses counter argument. The conclusion strengthens the writer’s argument
- Text consistently explains the relationship between evidence used and argument presented; is more analytical than descriptive
- Paper is well-developed and consistently demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization that aids in strongly supporting argument
- Proper format is applied throughout paper and bibliography (3-4 pages, typed, 12 font, 1 inch margins)
- Formal language and tone used throughout; sources are properly cited; few to no grammatical & spelling errors

4 (86-92%)
- Thoroughly addresses the assignment and includes a concise thesis that addresses the research question
- Text introduces an arguable claim and takes a position supported throughout paper with relevant evidence that supports writer’s argument and addresses counter argument. The conclusion effectively reinforces argument.
- Text explains the relationship between evidence used and argument presented; may be more descriptive than analytical
- Paper is a well-developed and demonstrated a logical organization that aids in supporting argument
- Proper format is applied throughout paper and bibliography (3-4 pages, typed, 12 font, 1 inch margins)
- Formal language and tone used; sources are properly cited; few to no grammatical & spelling errors

3 (76-85%)
- Addresses the assignment and includes a thesis that somewhat addresses the research question
- Text introduces an arguable claim and takes a position supported at times in the paper with sufficient evidence that supports writer’s argument and addresses counter argument. The conclusion relates back to the argument.
- Text attempts to explain the relationship between evidence used and argument presented; may be more descriptive than analytical; may include some minor inaccuracies
- Paper is satisfactorily developed and demonstrates a general plan of organization
- Proper format is applied throughout paper and bibliography (3-4 pages, typed, 12 font, 1 inch margins)
- Formal language and tone may be weak; some source citations may be missing or inaccurate; Few grammatical & spelling errors

2 (65-75%)
- Addresses some aspects of the assignment and includes a thesis that is unclear and might not completely reflect research question
- Text introduces an unclear argument and takes a vague position which is supported with some evidence; counterargument is weakly referred to or not addressed; conclusion restates writer’s position
- Text explains evidence presented in a descriptive manner and fails to make clear connections between evidence and argument
- Paper is organized somewhat but may lack focus
- Proper format is applied but may be missing one or more required element
- Formal language and tone are weak or inconsistent; source citations are either missing or inaccurate; there are some grammatical & spelling errors

1 (40-60%)
- Shows a limited understanding of the assignment, may be missing a thesis or contain an unclear thesis
- Text introduces an unclear argument and takes a vague position that is supported with limited evidence; counterargument is not addressed; there is no proper conclusion of the argument
- Text does not explain evidence presented clearly and fails to make connections between evidence and position
- Paper may be somewhat disorganized or has limited structure
- Improper format is applied, is missing multiple elements
- Formal language and tone are weak; source citations are missing; several grammatical & spelling errors

Adapted from “Common Core State Standards Writing Rubrics for Grades 9/10 by Turnitin”.