

I. GENERAL PURPOSE/AUDIENCE

Historians analyze data to develop theories about past ideas, experiences, or movements, in order to explain why or how previous events occurred and how they fit into larger historical contexts. They are expected to use both primary and secondary sources to do thorough authoritative research with a clear and concise argument. Audiences include peers, teachers, students, and the general public.

II. TYPES OF WRITING

- Critical essays
- Research papers
- Book reviews
- Historiographical analysis
(examining assumptions, biases, or methods of other historians)
- Primary source analysis
- Secondary source analysis

III. TYPES OF EVIDENCE

- Primary sources: material/artifacts, government documents, public records, debates, numerical data, eye-witness accounts, interviews, speeches, diaries, letters, photographs, maps, newspapers
- Secondary sources: books, journal articles, or documentaries which make arguments based on primary sources

IV. WRITING CONVENTIONS

- Address counterarguments, conflicting theories, or biased interpretations
- Utilize multiple, credible, reliable, and authoritative sources
- Establish validity by being fair and unbiased
- Avoid first person point-of-view (I/we) and opinion words (think, feel, believe)
- Be mindful of sexist language which excludes female contribution
(ex. "When a historian writes a paper, he affects all of mankind." vs. "When a historian writes a paper, he or she affects all of humanity.")
- Use past tense for writing about past events
- Use present tense when writing about another author's work

V. COMMON TERMS AND CONCEPTS

Agency	Marxian
Approach	Marxist
Bottom-Up Approach	New Left
Consensus History	Old Left
Cultural Approach	Political History
Discourse	Postmodernism
Economic Determinist	Presentist History
Environmental History	Progressive School
Essentialize	Revisionist History
Ethnohistory	Social History
Feminist	Structuralism
Gender	Teleology
Historiography	Top-Down Approach
Labor History	Traditional
Leftist	Transnational

VI. CITATION STYLE

- CMS (Chicago Manual Style) (Instructor citation requirements may vary)