

The purpose of this assignment is to have you look at history and research in a whole new light. You will be writing a descriptive paper of a historical event from the perspective of a character who has taken some part in the event. This description must be written in first person, and it should be approached from the perspective of the character recalling the incident (past tense).

Guidelines:

- ♥ Your character **cannot** be a major player in the event. For example, if your topic is the Holocaust, you could write your paper from the perspective of a survivor, a German soldier, an American soldier, or a German citizen. You cannot write it from the perspective of Hitler, any leader of the concentration camps, or a well-known participant of this happening, *i.e.* Anne Frank.
- ♥ You will be given a topic. From this point you will need to locate **three excellent sources**, research the event, and take notes. These notes should be at least one page in length. You may write your notes in any form that suits you, but the information you need to write each entry for your Works Cited page should be included. Be picky. Not all sources will give you the type of information or facts that you can use. These sources should provide valuable information that would help you add important detail to your character's account of the event. (With my consent, you could also select another topic from a list of suggestions or choose a historical event that suits your personal interest.)
- ♥ At least one of your sources must be a print source. Internet sites should be credible and current. That means that the source must at least be sponsored by a credible organization or have an author listed. The source must meet the guidelines established in class for a valid Internet source.
- ♥ You will be compiling your notes and then using them to help you write your story. Historical facts must be woven into your story to give it credibility. You want your reader to believe that your character had a personal connection to what happened.
- ♥ When you write your story, remember to write from the point of view of the character telling it. What is the background that lead up to the event? How did this event impact his/her life? What were some of the important details, and why are they important? These are just a few of the questions you can try to answer in creating your story. Remember this is a fictional story. Do not try to turn it into a research paper filled with hallow facts.

Check List of Requirements:

- ♥ Research your historical event.
- ♥ Compile notes and facts from your required sources that surround the event to use later in a story. Type them for later submission.
- ♥ Create a character to tell your story. Be creative; look for unique perspectives. Complete the narrator worksheet.
- ♥ Tell the story of the event from the character's point of view. It must be in first person and include relevant factual detail. Although you are creating an original story, you are basing your story on actual events researched from outside sources. Even though this is historical fiction, the facts are not your own, so you will be using end notes to credit sources. **At least twenty documented facts must be included.**
- ♥ The paper needs to be at least 1,000 words but cannot exceed 1,500 words; this does not include the Works Cited page. Papers short of the minimum word count will be docked 20% or more depending on the length. If you exceed the word count by more than fifty words, you will be docked 20%. (Sometimes writers must learn to write within limits. Make each word count)
- ♥ MLA style. Use the information taught in class. Other valuable resources include the Purdue Online Writing Lab: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html). A works cited generator can be found at <http://webapps.calvin.edu/knightcite/>. I highly recommend it!

- ♥ Include a Works Cited page in the correct format.
- ♥ Include a **cover letter** where you thoughtfully reflect on the following:
 - Part one: Discuss why you chose your particular topic. Why did you choose your narrator? Did you consider different perspectives? Explain how you selected the information from your research to use in your story. Did you struggle to incorporate facts into your narrative? Why or why not?
 - Part two: Explain how this research paper was unique to past research papers. Do you have a preference? What were your challenges? What worked well? Do you feel you used the same skills you would have used if you had written a traditional research paper?

Final project checklist

Arrange your work in the following order:

- Progress sheet/rubric
- Cover letter
- Original document on topic
- Works Cited page
- End notes
- Narrator worksheet
- Original notes, typed