

Rubric for Historical Writing

	Below 14 pts.	14-16 pts.	16-18 pts.	18-20 pts.
Analytical substance	Author presents basic or descriptive information with little to no analysis.	Paper contains weak main points supporting limited analysis; more descriptive than analytical.	Author successfully identifies main points that provide solid analysis.	Author shows exceptional analytical insight using well-chosen main points.
Supporting material	Author does not use evidence and/or entirely fails to cite sources.	Author uses evidence sporadically or inappropriately and/or fails to cite sources accurately.	Author uses secondary and/or primary sources to support argument and cites sources.	Author subtly weaves in powerful evidence for their argument and correctly cites all sources.
Structure	The paper structure is entirely unclear and/or lacks a thesis statement.	Paper lacks a clear argumentative structure; thesis statement is weak or hard to find.	Paper has a thesis-driven argument and is organized into a coherent whole.	Argument is clear and elegantly shaped without being formulaic or didactic.
Quality of writing	Writing is difficult to understand and/or unprofessional; contains numerous errors in grammar, syntax, and phrasing.	Writing lacks some clarity and contains errors and/or deficiencies in grammar, syntax, or phrasing.	Writing is clear and contains only minor errors in grammar, syntax, or phrasing.	Writing is especially sophisticated and a pleasure to read; contains no major errors.
Historical perspective	Author does not show historical perspective and context.	Author weakly contextualizes historical perspective or information; some inaccuracies or oversights	Author provides solid understanding of historical perspective and accurately contextualizes their argument	Author shows sophisticated ability to place their argument within a rich historical context.

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