

PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS

Friday 16 March – Thanksgiving Proclamation

Friday 6 April – Mount Vernon source

Monday 9 April – *American Experience: The Presidents* video

Friday 20 April – *Chronicling America* article on Memorial Day

Monday 23 April – Political cartoon about Armistice Day, 1918-28

Friday 27 April – King Center Digital Archive source

Because this is a 100-level course, we have specific learning objectives to achieve. In particular, you will be learning how to critically analyze and interpret primary sources, and then construct history using these sources. When you encounter sources that provide different interpretations or perspectives, you will need to compare and contrast these sources. Everything in the course has been designed to help you build these skills a step at a time, just as other historians have been doing for centuries (with the benefit of 21st-century technology). For this assignment, you will analyze 6 sources. You will also get questions on your Tests and Final Exam about the Primary Source Analyses, so the work will benefit you in several ways.

Step #1: Select a primary source to use from the link provided on the course webpage for the date and topic noted above.

Step #2: Complete an analysis worksheet – **thoroughly!** A link has been provided for you at the course webpage to the National Archives Document Analysis Worksheets, and it will be up to you to use the appropriate worksheet for the type of source you are working on. You can either type the answers in and then print the sheet, or print the sheet and write them in by hand.

Step #3: Write at least **300 WORDS** (about 1 page or 1-2 paragraphs) about the significance of the source. How does it connect to the larger discussion we've been having about how the United States uses commemorative holidays to build national identity and/or pride in American history? What information from the worksheet is most important to keep in mind when using this particular source? Does the source answer questions or raise them? Your analysis should be typed, double spaced, in 12-pt. font with 1-inch margins. Do not forget to put your name on your assignment. Spelling and grammar will affect your grade, but you do not need an introduction or conclusion because these are simply intended to report on the usefulness of the source. While first person is okay on the worksheets, you should **NOT** use it in your final analysis.

Step #4: Make sure your final analysis is properly referenced, including citing the source you are analyzing and any conversations we've had in class. You may also wish to reference videos or other materials linked to the class webpage. See the reverse for the proper footnote formatting for each of these types of sources. You do not need a Works Cited page or Bibliography for this assignment.

Step #5: Hand in **BOTH** your analysis worksheet and your final analysis **AT CLASS TIME**. If you have an excused absence for an approved off-campus trip, you should complete the analysis and get it to me **BEFORE** you leave. Similarly, if you are feeling unwell and are unable to attend class on a day with a deadline, you should find a friend to bring your final analysis and worksheet to me by Noon. Assignments handed in late will lose 10 pts. per calendar day, so keep that in mind.

Using Footnotes

For any piece of information or ideas you use from another source, you must provide a reference. Let me repeat that...for *any* piece of information or ideas you use from another source, you must provide a reference. In addition, you must place quotation marks around any direct wording you take from a source, even if it is only three or four words. As a general rule, you should have at least one footnote per paragraph in your paper. You may list more than one source in the footnote to save you making too many of them, but you must have all the knowledge you have “borrowed” properly cited.

For this paper, please use footnotes. Your computer will automatically insert them for you. To insert a footnote, place cursor at the end of the sentence and do as follows:

- ★ In the newest version of Microsoft Word (for Windows)...go to the Reference tab.
- ★ Click on "Add Footnote..."
- ★ Automatically a new "footnote" will come up at the bottom of your paper, set to the correct footnote number you should be on. At that point you will type in your reference information according to *The Chicago Manual of Style*. After you are finished, you can move your cursor back to the main text of your paper with your mouse. It is also good to know that you can cut, paste, and copy footnotes just as you can any other text (by highlighting the number in the paper itself and performing whichever function you need) and all the reference information will move along with the number.
- ★ Footnotes are normally in 10-pt. font.
- ★ Do not change the default settings the computer uses for your footnotes, they should all be correct already.
- ★ There will NEVER be two footnotes with the same number.
- ★ Finally, footnotes are NOT footers and should not be in your footer.

Here are some examples to help you in laying out your references:

¹ HIST 110: U.S. History through Holidays, March 19, 2018.

² Continental Congress, First Thanksgiving Proclamation 1777, Pilgrim Hall Museum, http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org/pdf/TG_First_National_Thanksgiving_Proclamation_1777.pdf (accessed March 15, 2018).

³ Culper Spy Ring Code, George Washington's Mount Vernon, <http://www.mountvernon.org/education/primary-sources-2/article/culper-spy-ring-code/> (accessed April 5, 2018)

⁴ PBS, "Murder of a President," *American Experience: The Presidents*, February 2, 2016, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/garfield/> (accessed April 7, 2018).

⁵ "Flowers to Lay on the Graves of Dead Soldiers," *Omaha Daily Bee* (Omaha, NE), May 26, 1901, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, Library of Congress, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn99021999/1901-05-26/ed-1/seq-17/> (accessed April 19, 2018).

⁶ *The Washington Herald* (Washington, D.C.), November 11, 1922, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, Library of Congress, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045433/1922-11-11/ed-1/seq-1/> (accessed April 21, 2016).

⁷ Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Letter from Eleanor Roosevelt to MLK, March 31, 1962, The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, <http://www.thekingcenter.org/archive/document/letter-eleanor-roosevelt-mlk> (accessed April 26, 2018).

Note: If you have any questions about footnote formatting, please refer to Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (at the Bookstore or at the Writing Center) or ask Dr. Myers for assistance during class or office hours.