

Our World of Wonder Paper Outline Instructions

Criteria:

Handwritten outlines are due Monday, April 21st. Ideas may be bullet-pointed or written out in full sentences. Each outline should be contained in one sheet of paper.

Requirements:

Paper outlines should demonstrate:

- Clearly articulated research question and thesis statement
- Elaboration regarding content of body paragraphs
 - *Thoughtful* and *logical* clarification of the order of ideas (e.g. “I will first consider X, which naturally will lead me into an investigation of Y using historical source Z as my evidence.”)
 - Preparation of any relevant background information needed to understand the paper’s claims (“In order for a reader to understand A, I will need to describe the historical role played by B and the relationship the two had prior to event C.”)
 - Description of how historical evidence will be implemented to support points (“Source D contains ideas E and F, which will serve role G in my paper.”)

Important reminders for the paper:

- Chicago style formatting will be expected for the papers.
- These papers are not opportunities to express opinions and biased positions but rather to maintain fact-based and objective historical claims.
- The facts you provide should always be backed up with historical evidence either through the use of external sources or information already studied in class.

Tips for Approaching Sources

Questions to remember when considering a source:

- *Relevance*: Is this the type of information you need? Is it related to your topic? Is it detailed enough to help you answer questions on your topic?
- *Authority*: Who is the author or creator of the information (can be an individual or an organization)? Are they an expert on your topic? Who is the publisher? Are they reputable? What purpose did they have for sharing this information? Is it fact or opinion? Is there unfair bias?
- *Accuracy*: Is the information true? What information does the author cite or refer to? Can you find this information anywhere else? Can you find evidence to back it up from another resource?

For early stages of research, Wikipedia and AI platforms like ChatGPT can be helpful entryways towards accessing specific sources of relevance. However, please consider: your research will be far from thorough/academic if it does not go beyond these starting points.

Lastly, begin building a list of sources as you research. You should not spend time at this stage formatting your citations; rather, your focus should be to build a collection. While the minimum requirement is the implementation of two primary and two secondary sources, you are welcome to use more if your paper would benefit from their addition.

Reliable Locations for Finding Digital Sources:

<https://dp.la/> (primary)

<https://www.docsteach.org/documents> (primary)

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> (primary, newspapers)

<https://catalog.archives.gov/advanced-search> (primary and secondary)

<https://scholar.google.com/> (primary and secondary)

<https://www.jstor.org/action/showAdvancedSearch> (secondary)