United States History

Mrs. Stafstrom

Introduction to Historical Research and Writing

We will be in the Media Center for three consecutive days. During this time you will be working on the three goals listed below. These activities are self-directed meaning once you have completed or mastered one and received teacher approval, you can move forward to the next task. All your detailed instructions are on the class website. Focused work in class should allow you to submit the essay by the end of class on Wednesday; the essay is due by 9 pm, Thursday, 9/18.

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| **Task** | **Teacher Initial** |
| 1. Enroll in turinitin.com for this class and successfully upload a document to turnitin. |  |
| 2. Learn how to define and avoid plagiarism and then pass a quiz showing that you know the basics of how to do that. |  |
| 3. Write a short essay in answer to a question about the Declaration of Independence where you will use the Media Center online resources; then submit that essay to turnitin. |  |

1. Turnitin –
	1. Enroll in the class by following the directions on the turnitin instructions link on the class website.
	2. After enrolling, create a document (Word or googledoc) titled, “I can do it!” Put your name, hour and date in the documents along with I can do it. Save and then login again to turnitin and follow directions for “uploading” a document. Upload this document.
2. Avoiding Plagiarism
	1. log into your turnitin account (remember you are already enrolled). Click on the top tab titled, “What is Plagiarism?” Review the material at this site (Plagiarism 101, Citing Sources). You can also review the What is Plagiarism and How to Avoid it FAQ” linked on the class website
	2. Your goal is to **identify** what is plagiarism and **identify** ways to avoid it.
	3. Take the plagiarism quiz (get it from one of the teachers); if you score at least a 70% you can move on to step three.
3. Write the essay
	1. Pick **one** of the following two questions concerning the Declaration of Independence, research the topic and then write a short essay (complete with citations) that answers the question.
		1. How did the Declaration influence the creation of the *Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments* in 1848 [calling for more rights for women].
		2. What events in 1776 caused the delegates from the 13 colonies at the Continental Congress to decide that the only way to fix the problems with Great Britain was to issue the Declaration of Independence?
	2. Research your paper using the databases found under Library at the DHS website. ABC-Clio US History (GREAT place for overview!!), Gale Virtual Library, and Student Resources in Context all have information on the Declaration. There are also links to solid and reliable online sources at my website under “Internet Sources.” **Do NOT use .com sites**
	3. Your essay should have an introduction, body paragraphs and a conclusion
	4. Off-site access to the Media Center’s online resources sometimes requires a user name and/or password. User name: dekalb; PW: barbs
	5. Your essay must meet the following requirements:
		1. Minimum 300 words
		2. At least two (2) sources
			1. NO .com sites, textbook does not count
		3. Information must be cited. See “Citation Basics” linked on website on how to do this
		4. Include a Work Cited page at the end. Use easybib.com for creating the proper MLA format.
		5. Your first page should include your name, class, hour and date at the top left (same as for Humanities). Include a title to your essay.
		6. Avoid plagiarism
	6. Submit your finished essay by uploading it to turnitin. See turnitin instruction link on class website. The essay is due by 9 pm, Thursday, 9/18.