***Author’s Thesis Writing Assignment***

***Author’s Thesis Paper***: Students are provided with opposing viewpoints expressed in either primary or secondary source documents, and in writing, must determine the following:

The Thesis:

• What is the main argument of each author?

The Evidence:

• Look at the supporting evidence and analyze whether the authors interpret that evidence

logically. Do they clearly support the thesis?

Critical Analysis:

• What do the sources add to your own understanding of the topic?

• What points are strongly made and well-documented?

Final Analysis: (Your opinion is expressed here without the use of any form of the pronoun “I.”)

• Which of the sources makes the most convincing case and why? For each source,

complete the thesis, evidence, and critical analysis sections.

For each source, complete the thesis, evidence, and critical analysis sections.

***Sources for Evaluation:***

1. Zinn, Howard. *A People’s History of the United States.* New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classic, 2003. (Chapter 1 pages 1-22)
2. Bennett, William. *America: The Last Best Hope, Volume 1: From the Age of Discovery to a World at War*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2007. (Chapter 1 pages 1-29)
3. Mann, Charles C. *1491: New Revelations of the Americans Before Columbus.* 2nd ed. New York: Vintage Books, 2011. (Chapter 3 pages 71-109)

***Requirements:***

1. Introduction- Paragraph that properly introduces the reader to the topics being discussed. Proper background information is provided.
2. Analysis of the Secondary Sources- Paper thoroughly discusses all three sources using the criteria listed above. Sources are analyzed rather than recited.
3. Evaluation of the sources for this paper should focus on the following question: “Were the actions of the Spanish conquistadors moral?”
4. Final Analysis: Student provides an opinion on which source made the best argument and a detailed description for their rationale.
5. MLA format- Paper is completed in MLA format with a works cited page (The three sources you will be using are listed above-you do not need any outside sources). In-text citations are used for all borrowed information.
6. Paper is free of grammatical errors.

***Rubric:***

The grading rubric for this paper can be found on the next page. Please review thoroughly before starting the assignment. The paper is worth 70 points.

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| Criteria | Excellent 10 | Average 6 | Basic 2 |
| Introduction | Introduction paragraph thoroughly introduces the reader to the topic. Detailed descriptions of all necessary background information are provided. | Introduction paragraph introduces the reader to the topic. Several key points or facts that could have been included are missing. | Introduction paragraph does a poor job introducing the reader to the topic. The reader is left wondering what the paper is actually about or does not have the historical information to understand the paper. |
| Evaluation of Source #1 | Source #1 is thoroughly evaluated. Paper identifies and discusses thesis statement and supporting evidence. A critical analysis of the source is provided in detail. | Source #1 is evaluated. Paper attempts to discuss the thesis statement and supporting evidence but some areas are weak or missing. Paper repeats information rather than analyzing. | Source #1 is mentioned but thesis statement or supporting evidence is missing. No critical analysis of the source is present. |
| Evaluation of Source #2 | Source #2 is thoroughly evaluated. Paper identifies and discusses thesis statement and supporting evidence. A critical analysis of the source is provided in detail. | Source #2 is evaluated. Paper attempts to discuss the thesis statement and supporting evidence but some areas are weak or missing. Paper repeats information rather than analyzing. | Source #2 is mentioned but thesis statement or supporting evidence is missing. No critical analysis of the source is present. |
| Evaluation of Source #3 | Source #3 is thoroughly evaluated. Paper identifies and discusses thesis statement and supporting evidence. A critical analysis of the source is provided in detail. | Source #3 is evaluated. Paper attempts to discuss the thesis statement and supporting evidence but some areas are weak or missing. Paper repeats information rather than analyzing. | Source #3 is mentioned but thesis statement or supporting evidence is missing. No critical analysis of the source is present. |
| Final Analysis | A final conclusion on which source is correct is provided. Factual evidence from the sources is incorporating to thoroughly support the conclusion. | A final conclusion on which source is correct is provided. Conclusion is not supported with evidence from the sources or is supported with opinions. | A final conclusion on which source is correct is missing or is incoherent. |
| MLA Format/ Works Cited | Paper is written in MLA format and includes a works cited page. In-text citations are used properly when necessary. | Paper includes some of the elements of MLA format and has a works cited page. Some in-text citations are missing or are not properly used. | Paper is not in MLA format or does not include a works cited page. In-text citations are not used for borrowed factual information. |
| Grammar | Every two grammatical or spelling errors results in the deduction of half a point from this category. | Every two grammatical or spelling errors results in the deduction of half a point from this category. | Every two grammatical or spelling errors results in the deduction of half a point from this category. |