

Historical Papers

The Basics

- Must be an individual entry.
- Creative writing (fictional diaries, poems, etc.) is permitted.
- Must conform to all general and category rules.
- Should be grammatically correct and well written.
- Does NOT include a process paper.
- Must have a title page.
- Must have an annotated bibliography with separation of primary and secondary sources.

Length Requirements

- A minimum of 1,500 words and a maximum of 2,500 words
- Each word or number in the text of the paper counts as ONE word.
- Word limit does NOT apply to notes, annotated bibliography, illustration captions, and supplemental/appendix materials.

Counting Words

- Each word or number in the text of the paper counts as one word.
- Quotations count against the word limit.
- Each part of a name counts as one word, e.g., Martin Van Buren = three words.
- Each part of a date counts as one word, e.g., September 11, 2001 = three words.
- Words in the title page, notes, annotated bibliography, illustration captions, and appendix do NOT count.

The Title Page

- Only include the title of the entry, student name, and the contest division and category.
- Do NOT include pictures, graphics, school name, or grade level.

A Sample Title Page

“Sign Language: Communication for a Voiceless Culture”

Joe Ramirez

Senior Division

Historical Paper

Preparation Requirements

- Papers must be typed, computer printed, or legibly handwritten in ink on plain white 8.5 x 11-inch paper.

- Pages must be numbered consecutively and double-spaced with writing on only one side.
- Characters must be between 10 and 12 points in size.
- Paper should be stapled in the top left corner.
- Do NOT enclose in a cover or binder.

Supplemental Materials

- Appendix materials must be referenced to in the text.
- Use should be limited.
- Appendices may include photographs, maps, charts, and graphs.
- Oral history transcripts, correspondence, and questionnaires should be cited in the bibliography but not included as attachments.

Citations

- Citations are required.
- Citations can be either footnotes, endnotes, or internal documentation.
- Used to credit sources of specific ideas and for direct quotations.

Style Guides (Either style is acceptable, but style needs to be consistent throughout the paper.)

- Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.

OR

- Joseph Gibaldi, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 5th Edition*.

Sample Footnotes – MLA Style

The Many Facets of Taboo

The World Book Encyclopedia defines Taboo as "an action, object, person, or place forbidden by law or culture."¹

An encyclopedia of the occult points out that taboo is found among many other cultures including the ancient Egyptians, Jews and others.²

Mary Douglas has analyzed the many facets and interpretations of taboos across various cultures. She points out that the word "taboo" originates from the Polynesian languages meaning a religious restriction.³ She finds that "taboos flow from social boundaries and support the social structure."⁴

¹ Alan Dundes, "Taboo," World Book Encyclopedia, 2000 ed.

² "Taboo," Occultopedia: Encyclopedia of Occult Sciences and Knowledge, Site created and designed by Marcus V. Gay, 15 Feb. 2004 <<http://www.occultopedia.com/t/taboo.htm>>.

³ Mary Douglas, "Taboo," *Man, Myth & Magic*, ed. Richard Cavendish, new ed., 21 vols. (New York: Cavendish, 1994) 2546.

⁴ Douglas 2549.

(Source: A Research Guide for Students at
<http://www.aresearchguide.com/samplefootnote.html>)

Works Cited - MLA Style

- Douglas, Mary. "Taboo." *Man, Myth & Magic*. Ed. Richard Cavendish. New ed. 21 vols. New York: Cavendish, 1994. 2546-2549.
- Dundes, Alan. "Taboo." *World Book Encyclopedia*. 2000 ed.
- Freud, Sigmund. *Totem and Taboo*. New York: Random, 1918.
- McGrath, Stacy. "Ecological Anthropology." *Anthropological Theories: A Guide Prepared by Students for Students*. 19 Oct. 2001. U. of Alabama. 15 Feb. 2004 <<http://www.as.ua.edu/ant/Faculty/Murphy/ecologic.htm>>.
- Rothenberg, Kelly. "Tattooed People as Taboo Figures in Modern Society." 1996. BME/Psyber City. 15 Feb. 2004 <<http://bme.freeq.com/tatoo/tattab.html>>.
- "Taboo." *Occultopedia: Encyclopedia of Occult Sciences and Knowledge*. Site created and designed by Marcus V. Gay. 15 Feb. 2004 <<http://www.occultopedia.com/t/taboo.htm>>.

Sample Footnotes - Turabian Style

4. Donald N. McCloskey, *Enterprise and Trade in Victorian Britain: Essays in Historical Economics*. London: George Allen and Unwin, 1981, 54.

Subsequent References From the Same Source:

22. McCloskey, *Enterprise and Trade*, 61.

(Source: <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicago.html>)

Sample Works Cited Page - Turabian Style

McCloskey, Donald N. *The Applied Theory of Price*. 2nd ed. New York: Macmillan, 1985.

(Source: <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicago.html>)

OWLs on the Web

- Online writing labs to assist with citing sources, grammar and punctuation, using quotations, organizing information, rewriting, and avoiding plagiarism
- Internet Public Library website at <http://www.ipl.org/div/aplus>

Characteristics of a Thesis Statement

- An assertion, not a statement of fact or observation
- Takes a stand rather than announcing a subject
- The main idea, not the title, in a complete sentence
- Sufficiently narrow
- Specific rather than vague or general
- One main point rather than several main points

(Source: Literacy Education Online)

The Annotated Bibliography

- Must contain ALL sources that provided usable information or new perspectives.
- List ONLY those sources that contributed to the development of the entry.
- Visual and oral sources must be included if used.
- Annotations are used to explain how the source was used and how it helped with understanding the topic.
- Primary and secondary sources are listed separately.
- Web site annotations should also describe who sponsors the site.

A Sample Annotated Entry

Bates, Daisy. *The Long Shadow of Little Rock*. New York: David McKay Co. Inc., 1962.

Daisy Bates was the president of the Arkansas NAACP and the one who met and listened to the students each day. This first hand account was very important to my paper because it made me more aware of the feelings of the people involved.

Plagiarism

- Failure to credit sources is plagiarism and results in disqualification!
- Provide citations whenever using:
 - direct quotations
 - paraphrases and summaries
 - borrowed ideas
 - facts that are not common knowledge

Judging the Papers

- Historical Quality = 60%
- Clarity of Presentation = 20%
- Relation to Theme = 20%
- The decision of the judges is final.

Some Last Minute Thoughts....

- Submit four copies of the paper (and keep several copies for yourself) by the registration deadline. Include 4 copies of the process paper and annotated bibliography.
- Students should be prepared to answer judges' questions at the contest.

Information courtesy of Joe Ramirez, Austin Independent School District