



Due Dates

**Mon 3/7 Topic + the Chafe (HOT)
source you plan to use**

**Wed 3/16 Library Day - bring laptops
with you to library**

**Mon 4/4 Peer Review Day - bring
printed draft to class (3%)**

Fri 4/8 Final Draft Due (12%)

**Total: worth 15% of your final course
grade**

Paper Mechanics

- Use the sample paper posted online as a model for general formatting and citation style.
- Length: 6 double-spaced pages, plus footnotes, title page and bibliography.
- Paper should have a good title without using the words "research paper."
- Number your pages.
- References should use correct Chicago Style. Refer to our "Writing in History" and other resources, visit my office hours, or use the Writing Center if you need help with citation. Don't ask for last-minute help - resolve citation issues early.
- No sloppy work. Proofread your paper very carefully for spelling, verb tense, and grammar.

Research Paper Guidelines

This project will demonstrate strong historical thinking by employing both primary and secondary sources in a well-researched essay 6 pages long, on a course-related topic / question of interest to you and for which you can obtain reliable sources.

Your paper should be based on (at minimum) 3 main sources:

- 1) One primary source document from the Chafe book, *A History of Our Time: Readings on Postwar America* (or handed out in class)
- 2) One authentic primary source obtained elsewhere. For example: something from a reliable digital archive, presidential library, Library of Congress, Digital Public Library of America, National Archives, newspaper, online database, Avalon Project, National Security Archive, or museum collection. Or it could be a media artifact: photographic image, newsreel, TV commercial or program, film, radio program, etc.
- 3) One well-chosen **PRINT SCHOLARLY** secondary source. This means a book (preferably published by a university press) or peer-reviewed journal article. If using a journal article, print or copy it and attach the article to the essay. Note that you can print journal articles for free on the circulation desk floor of the library - and even if you are accessing a journal article online it is still a "print" source. If using a book or ebook, print or Xerox the title page and attach. A book that you can only see in Google or Amazon preview mode is not sufficient for this assignment (but an ebook obtained full-text online through our library is fine).

All sources should be properly and correctly cited using Chicago Style (footnotes + bibliography).

As you develop your inquiry and search for sources you may need to do additional background research, so feel free to add citations in your paper for any relevant reliable sources, but only 3 are absolutely required.

Research Method

BEFORE Googling for answers, START with the resources on our library website **History and Political Science Subject Guide**. Please DO NOT USE any websites, Wikipedia entries, or similar sites (Ask .com) as secondary sources. When in doubt about the quality or suitability of a source, CHECK WITH ME or a reference librarian!

Grading Rubric (12 points)

	Exceeds Standard (3)	Meets Standard (1-2)	Does Not Meet Standard (0)
Assignment Purpose & Guidelines	Demonstrates thorough understanding of context, audience and purpose that is responsive to the assigned task and focuses all elements of the work. Exceeds or meets all stated guidelines	Demonstrates adequate consideration of context, audience and purpose and a clear focus on the assigned task. Meets a majority of the stated guidelines.	Demonstrates minimal attention to context, audience, purpose or to the assigned task. Meets fewer than half of the stated guidelines.
Historical Approach	Crafts a compelling and original historical narrative that skillfully interprets primary source evidence, situating the research within the context of reliable historical scholarship.	Crafts a basic historical narrative that utilizes primary source evidence, situating the research within the context of historical scholarship.	Topic is too broad or vaguely defined, or does not connect well to historical context or scholarship.
Scholarly Integrity & Information Literacy	Uses at least 3 high-quality sources (2 primary, 1 secondary), with correct citations. Footnotes / bibliography are complete & accurate.	Uses and correctly cites at least 3 acceptable sources (2 primary, 1 secondary). Footnotes / bibliography are mostly complete & accurate.	Uses fewer than 3 appropriate sources, or sources are cited incorrectly, or footnotes / bibliography are partial or missing.
Written Communication	Is well-organized with elegant transitions throughout the paper. Uses graceful language that skillfully communicates meaning to readers with clarity and fluency, and is virtually error-free.	Uses a consistent and logical organizational structure. Uses language that generally conveys intended meaning to readers with clarity, although writing may include some errors.	Organizational structure is attempted but may be inconsistent or confusing. Uses language that sometimes impedes meaning because of errors in usage.

Evaluation Criteria

As I read your essay, I will be looking for...

- High-quality analysis of (not just “quoting from” or summarizing) both primary and secondary source evidence.
- Clear and thoughtful writing using a scholarly tone. Your writing should be free of typos, errors of logic, and biased or moralizing judgment about the past.
- A core argument / question that is clearly stated in the introduction, carried throughout the well-organized paper, and comes to a logical, elegant resolution in your conclusion.
- History accuracy and attention to detail.
- Complete and correct Chicago Style footnotes and bibliography entries.
- Independent work and thought; not just re-hashing someone else’s argument, but developing your own original historical interpretation about the past.