

A Student Guide to Writing in History

Criteria

Claim	<p><i>How well does your thesis and argument:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Answer the prompt <input type="checkbox"/> Account for historical context <input type="checkbox"/> Develop throughout paper <input type="checkbox"/> Address conflicting evidence and/or counterargument <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Is it historically defensible and supported by evidence?</i></p>
Evidence	<p><i>How well does the evidence (primary/secondary source(s)) support your argument?</i></p> <p><i>Do you:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide relevant, appropriate, and historically accurate evidence from multiple sources <input type="checkbox"/> Categorize your evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Explain your source(s) used as evidence, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Accurately citing the source o Identifying the kind of source (primary/secondary) o Describing the source’s context o Indicating format or medium o Explaining purpose and intended audience
Analysis	<p><i>How do you interpret evidence to support your argument?</i></p> <p><i>Do you:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Account for the source’s point of view and/or argument <input type="checkbox"/> Explain evidence using appropriate <i>historical thinking</i> concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Historical Significance o Cause and/or Effect o Change and Continuity o Perspective o Relevance to contemporary or ethical issues <input type="checkbox"/> Explicitly connect the interpretation of evidence to the thesis <input type="checkbox"/> Corroborate and synthesize multiple pieces of evidence to support your argument
Clarity	<p><i>How clearly do you develop and communicate your argument?</i></p> <p><i>Does your writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Include introductions and conclusions beyond the restatement of prompt or thesis <input type="checkbox"/> Show organization, that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Thesis and topic sentences that guide organization o Paragraphs organized into specific topics and are in a logical order to develop the argument o Transitions that develop argument and flow <input type="checkbox"/> Have clear discipline-specific language and is tone appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate appropriate use of grammar and spelling