

Rubric for Historical Writing

| | Below 14 pts. | 14-16 pts. | 16-18 pts. | 18-20 pts. |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Analytical substance | Author presents basic or descriptive information with little to no analysis. | Paper contains weak main points supporting limited analysis; more descriptive than analytical. | Author successfully identifies main points that provide solid analysis. | Author shows exceptional analytical insight using well-chosen main points. |
| Supporting material | Author does not use evidence and/or entirely fails to cite sources. | Author uses evidence sporadically or inappropriately and/or fails to cite sources accurately. | Author uses secondary and/or primary sources to support argument and cites sources. | Author subtly weaves in powerful evidence for their argument and correctly cites all sources. |
| Structure | The paper structure is entirely unclear and/or lacks a thesis statement. | Paper lacks a clear argumentative structure; thesis statement is weak or hard to find. | Paper has a thesis-driven argument and is organized into a coherent whole. | Argument is clear and elegantly shaped without being formulaic or didactic. |
| Quality of writing | Writing is difficult to understand and/or unprofessional; contains numerous errors in grammar, syntax, and phrasing. | Writing lacks some clarity and contains errors and/or deficiencies in grammar, syntax, or phrasing. | Writing is clear and contains only minor errors in grammar, syntax, or phrasing. | Writing is especially sophisticated and a pleasure to read; contains no major errors. |
| Historical perspective | Author does not show historical perspective and context. | Author weakly contextualizes historical perspective or information; some inaccuracies or oversights | Author provides solid understanding of historical perspective and accurately contextualizes their argument | Author shows sophisticated ability to place their argument within a rich historical context. |

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