**Historiographical Paper**

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A historiographical paper is **not a research paper**. It critically examines existing scholarship relevant to a given subject. A good historiographical paper does this by:

* explaining clearly the theoretical and historiographical aspects of the topic;
* addressing a wide range of relevant scholarship, including the most recent publications;
* identifying the questions historians have used to address this topic;
* calling the reader’s attention to the development of scholarship over time ( how newer work builds on older work)
* pointing out differences of opinion between authors;
* comparing scholarship with respect to theoretical approach, use of evidence, and argument;
* indicating what aspects of the topic remain unaddressed, and suggesting reasons why. This is where you can make your own carefully chosen and sensibly limited comments.

Note: a review should be based on a survey of at least 10 secondary sources. These may be journal articles, essays in books, or monographs. More is not necessarily better.

Make sure you use a consistent and correct bibliographic citation format.

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Here is another definition of a historiographical paper:

A **historiography paper** is an essay that analyses the different ways in which various historians have approached a historical topic. Unlike a research paper, a historiography paper is not a study of a historical subject; instead, it is an examination of how scholars’ interpretations of history and historical events have changed over time. A historiography paper should give a detailed overview of the major works of scholarship on a topic, and it should summarize, evaluate, and critique the arguments of each of those works.

Here are a few sources you might check to help you understand this kind of paper:

www.cgu.edu/pages/840.asp

www.writing.ku.edu/~writing/guides/historiography.shtml