

"Fake History" Assignment (75 points)

Like fake news (also called hoax news—websites that produce false news stories, usually for profit), "fake history" infects much of what you'll read online. Sometimes, like fake news, what I'm calling "fake history" is completely made up. More often, it relies on distortion and exaggeration. As a student of history—and as a citizen and a voter—you need to know how to differentiate between what is reliable and what is not. This assignment aims to help you develop those practical and essential skills, as well as to continue to hone ability to read, assess, and make an argument.

Be sure you have downloaded **and read** the Key Resources for this assignment (on Moodle under "Critical Thinking assignments"):

- How to Read Secondary Sources
- Online Research: The Basics
- Argument and Thesis: The Essentials

Type your answers to the following questions. Be sure you complete all the sections. You will upload this assignment as a single file onto the Turnitin.com link on Moodle under "Fake History assignment."

- Label your answers (e.g. I.A.)
- Use complete sentences.
- Do grammar and spelling count? Certainly. That's part of being an educated person (and that's you!).
- When you quote from one of the assigned sites, be sure to follow the rules of proper citation: quote exactly, use quotation marks, state the source in a parenthesis (in abbreviated form).
- FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS GIVEN HERE!!!!

I.

Reread 27.4.1: The War Against the Jews and 27. Justice in History: The Trial of Adolf Eichmann.

Review your lecture notes for "The Legacy: Mass Killing and the Meaning of Western Civilization."

Reread "Argument and Thesis: The Essentials."

Write a detailed 3-paragraph essay entitled "The Evolution of the Holocaust," based on this reading. Be sure you have a thesis and an argument.

II.

Read "How to Read Secondary Sources."

Now click on the Institute for Historical Review website link on Moodle (under "Fake History assignment") and PAST Arthur Butz's article. Write 2-3 sentences for each letter.

III.

So what's going on here? To find out, use the questions listed in "Online Research: The Basics" to assess the IHR website and Arthur Butz's credentials. Be specific in your answers to these questions—give examples. If you're told to Google, then Google and describe your results. (1-3 sentences per question)

IV.

For each of the next three websites under this assignment (Biblebelievers, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Holocaust Education and Research Team), answer the questions listed in "Online Research: The Basics." Be specific—give examples. If you're told to Google, then Google and describe your results. (Again, 1-3 sentences per question)

V.

Explain in a detailed paragraph which of these sites you judge to be the least and the most reliable and why. (Note: you are making an argument. Be sure you have a thesis. Be sure you have evidence to back up that thesis.)

VI.

If a student used only the unreliable sites to learn about the Holocaust, what wrong information would he/she accept as true? Does it matter? (Answer in a detailed paragraph.)

Upload the document with your answers (properly labeled, please!) to the Turnitin.com link on Moodle.