

American History Paper

“1950s Through 2000s”

Your assignment is to develop one of the following topics into a full essay. The length of the paper is not as important as the paper’s quality, but the expectation is that your paper should be **at least** two typed (double spaced) pages with the standard one inch margin. Each paper must also include a bibliography that includes at least three sources. You are required to not only explain your topic, but to also include your own opinion and to justify that opinion. Be sure that you give credit when you are using the ideas and words of someone else. We will be visiting the Media Center to conduct research and get started on your papers Thur. & Fri, May 19-20.

Grade: 50 points possible (25 points Test average / 25 points HW average)

Breakdown:

- coverage of topic (15 pts) - spelling/grammar (5 pts)
- personal opinion (10 pts) - neatness/length (5 pts)
- Participation (Media Center) (5 pts)
- Bibliography / sources (5 pts.) - confirmation receipt (5pts)

** Non-original work will not be given any credit!

Citing Sources:

www.troycolts.org

-go to the THS Media Center page and then go to “Research Help”

<http://webapps.calvin.edu/knightcite/index.php>

- this guides you through the process of citing all types of sources

Due Date: **Wednesday, June 8, 2011** (at the beginning of class)

Topics: Each student in the class will work on one of these. We will hold a drawing to decide the order in which the class will choose topics.

1. Analyze the dismissal of General MacArthur and the public reaction
2. Analyze the effects of McCarthyism on the nation
3. Who was John F. Dulles? What is massive retaliation? What was the effect on the cold war?
4. Discuss Nikita Krushchev and the Soviet Union’s successes and failures in the cold war
5. What is the legacy of the beat movement of the 1950s? Discuss Jack Kerouac’s influence.
6. Discuss the impact of Sputnik on American society.
7. What is the significance of the election of 1960? Discuss the influence of television on the Presidential elections since.
8. Discuss the influence of John Maynard Keynes on the US economy.
9. Evaluate JFK’s role in the Cuban Missile Crisis
10. Evaluate John F. and Robert F. Kennedy’s actions to help the civil rights cause
11. What was the effect of the U-2 incident on cold war relations?
12. What was the reason for the building of the Berlin Wall? Why was it opened in 1989?
13. Warren Commission – who? What did they find? What is the controversy surrounding their findings?
14. What is the present controversy over the JFK assassination? What are some of the theories?
15. Betty Friedan and *The Feminine Mystique* – effect on women’s roles and attitudes today? (include discussion of NOW)
16. Trace Ho Chi Minh’s rise to power and analyze his relations with the West.

17. Evaluate Robert McNamara's role in Vietnam
18. Evaluate Earl Warren's Supreme Court
19. How was American opinion of the Vietnam War different from other wars? Effect?
20. Why was the Democratic Party in disarray in 1968? Evaluate the role the Chicago riots had on the party, the war, and America's image.
21. Evaluate the achievements of Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society"
22. Evaluate the role of Thurgood Marshall in the civil rights movement in the US.
23. Malcolm X and the black power movement and its effects on race relations.
24. Evaluate the life and death of Martin Luther King and his nonviolence approach.
25. Evaluate the tactics and significance of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers.
26. Why did the American Indian Movement (AIM) develop in the 1960s? How founded are their demands?
27. Why did the US go to the moon? What was the importance and purpose of the space race?
28. What was Woodstock and what did it represent?
29. What impact did the counterculture of the 1960s and 1970s have on mainstream America and why did much of this wear off?
30. Eisenhower to Carter to both Bush's – how did US relations in the Middle East change?
31. Nixon, Brezhnev, and détente – how did this change the cold war?
32. Evaluate Henry Kissinger's role in making US foreign policy.
33. What was the ERA and its concerns? Is it poised for a comeback?
34. What was the role of Jimmy Carter in creating the Camp David Accords. Analyze the significance of this Egypt-Israel treaty.
35. What was the Iran hostage crisis? What was the US response? How was this resolved?
36. US in Latin America in the 1980s (Grenada, El Salvador, Panama)
37. Why did the Soviet Union dissolve in 1991?
38. Evaluate Presidents Reagan and Bush in the final years of the cold war.
39. Evaluate the role Pope John Paul II played in ending the cold war.
40. What is the US policy regarding China and Taiwan? How has it changed over the years?
41. Evaluate the role of the US as peacemakers (Lebanon, Somalia, Bosnia,...)
42. Explore the development of Israel and the current situation it has with its neighbors.
43. How did apartheid come to an end in South Africa. Analyze the role of the US.
44. Evaluate the Clinton impeachment. Should he have been removed from office?
45. Evaluate the US strategy of creating democracies in southern Asia.
46. How important should it be for the US government to respect people's civil rights as it wages a war against terrorism?
47. Compare the US strategy in fighting the Gulf War with the war in Vietnam.
48. Evaluate the problems overcome by US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.
49. Should new laws restrict or expand immigration?
50. How should medical coverage for the uninsured be funded?
51. How can Social Security be reformed so that it will have enough money to pay retirees?
52. How can the nation balance conservation with economic progress?

Important Dates:	Select Topics:	May 17
	Media Center:	May 19 and 20
	Paper Due:	June 8