Modern European History

Exploration Essay

**Writing A Research Paper**

When creating a research paper, you read and analyze historical records, assimilate and synthesize information from several sources, and then write an essay using this information. It gives you the chance to showcase your ability to assess the value of a variety of documents and the emphasis is on analysis and synthesis, not historical narrative; you will not just list all the information you’ve learned about your subject, you will use the information you’ve learned to support your answer to a specific essay prompt.

**Points to remember when writing an essay:**

> write an outline before writing the essay

> create a thesis statement that restates the question and has all of your arguments in order of least to most important - **underline your thesis**

> include argument paragraphs with at least two pieces of evidence (can be more) that accurately support the argument

> do not use first person (I, we, us) or contractions (won’t, didn’t, etc.)

> do not use absolutes (always, never, every, etc.) unless you are 100% certain they are true

> only include quotes that are less than two lines in length and are cited

> avoid the use of extra qualifiers (such as “really” – i.e., “this event was really important”)

**Format Expections**

12 pt., Times New Roman font

double-spaced, 1-inch margins

title centered at the top of the first page

correct spelling and grammar and proper sentence structure and paragraph format

**Essay Prompt:**

*Why is this explorer historically important?*

The A Essay (100-90)

\_\_\_\_\_ Contains a thoroughly developed thesis that identifies and explains why this explorer is historically important.

\_\_\_\_\_ Presents an effective analysis of the historically important contributions of this explorer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Effectively supports thesis with substantial and relevant information.

\_\_\_\_\_ May contain minor errors.

\_\_\_\_\_ Clearly organized and well written.

The B Essay (89-80)

\_\_\_\_\_ Contains a thesis that identifies and explains why this explorer is historically important.

\_\_\_\_\_ Has limited analysis of the historically important contributions of this explorer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Effectively supports thesis with some relevant information.

\_\_\_\_\_ May have errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.

\_\_\_\_\_ Shows acceptable organization and writing; language errors do not interfere with comprehension.

The C-D Essay (79-60)

\_\_\_\_\_ Contains a limited or undeveloped thesis.

\_\_\_\_\_ Deals with the question in a general manner; simplistic, superficial treatment of the subject.

\_\_\_\_\_ Contains little factual information.

\_\_\_\_\_ May have major errors.

\_\_\_\_\_ May be poorly organized and/or written.

The F Essay (60 and below)

\_\_\_\_\_ Contains no thesis or a thesis that does not address the question.

\_\_\_\_\_ Exhibits inadequate or incorrect understanding of the question.

\_\_\_\_\_ Contains no information that is inaccurate or does not support arguments or thesis.

\_\_\_\_\_ Has numerous errors.

\_\_\_\_\_ Is written so poorly that it inhibits understanding.