

CHY 4UI: Essay Assignment

Task: To produce a ***reliably-researched*** and ***well-cited*** argumentative/***persuasive essay*** that ***defends a position/opinion*** about an important historical figure **OR** a political or social/cultural movement **OR** an important historical event that occurred in World History between the years **1500 and the present.**

Requirements:

Length: 7-9 pages of written text (does not incl. endnotes, bibliography or title pg.)-approx. 2000 - 2500 words

Chicago format (see www.chicagomanualofstyle.org for details)

Bibliography of a minimum of 5 sources that are ALL cited/quoted at least once in the body of the essay

Stages: Worth 5% of Final Mark:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| 1. Browse and Skim | /10 |
| 2. Annotated Bibliography | /15 |
| 3. Introductory Paragraph | /10 |
| 4. Rough Outline | <u>/10</u> |
| | 45 mks. |

Final Paper: Worth 10% of Final Mark:
100 marks (see rubric)
Submit 2 copies of final paper

Key Ideas to Keep in Mind:

- a) Frame your topic choice in the form of a **challenging FOCUS QUESTION** that could reasonably have at least 2 answers that could be defended:

Ex. **“Joseph Stalin’s Russia: Would Karl Marx have been surprised?”**

ie. “NO, Stalin was a good/ideal Marxist who correctly applied communist ideas to Russia”

OR

“YES, Stalin perverted Marx’s ideas of Communism”

- b) The Essay must then seek to **persuade the reader** of the opinion you have formed about your person, movement, or event **based on the research** you have gathered and evaluated critically.
- c) A 4UI – level essay should contain approximately **1/3 descriptive material** on your subject (properly cited and sourced), the **key historical facts** that a reader should know in order to understand the opinion that you will be **defending in the remaining 2/3 of your paper**.
- d) The **persuasive section (2/3)** of your essay should focus on assessing:
- i) How the subject (person/movement/event) has influenced the country’s or the world’s history (for better or for worse)
- OR
- ii) How the subject has influenced our understanding/functioning of the contemporary world? (how can we understand our own world better by understanding what this person/event/movement did/accomplished/discovered/ etc.)

e) Your opinion needs to be **SUPPORTED** by reliable and applicable **historical facts** and **quotes** from qualified “experts”, properly cited in Chicago style in your paper.

f) Some examples of possible topics:

- Social Impacts of the Industrial Revolution
- Karl Marx’s Impact on “Country X”
- The Role of Violence in the French Revolution
- Bonaparte: Betrayer or Saviour of the Revolution?
- Nationalism’s Impact on Specific Country’s History
- Imperialism’s Impact on “Country X”
- Hitler’s Rise in Germany: Force of Personality or Conditions of the Time?
- Communism vs. Capitalism: A Comparison of Gender Roles