

8th Grade U.S. History Homework Guidelines

Please... always put your *name, the date, your class period and the assignment title* in the upper right hand corner of your paper.

Vocabulary is very important in Social Studies. Each section review has a section entitled **Identify**. These are the vocabulary words. When doing the ID's, you must define the term, or person. Then you must explain the significance of that term or person. If you do not have both parts in your answer, no credit will be given.

The next part of the section review has questions designed to emphasize the main ideas in the assigned reading. This is called **Reading for Content Understanding**.

When answering these questions it is important to figure out just what the question is asking. Always keep in mind your purpose for writing. That purpose might be to express a point of view, evaluate, synthesize, analyze, persuade, inform, or hypothesize. As you begin, your purpose for writing will determine the most appropriate approach to take; when you have completed, your purpose for writing will help you to evaluate your success. Each different purpose for writing requires its own form, tone, and content. The point of view you are adopting will also shape what you write, and in addition you must shape your work to fit your intended audience, or whoever will be reading what you write. For example, the tone you would take when writing to the president of the United States would differ greatly from the tone you would take when writing to a pen pal.

USING HISTORICAL IMAGINATION

Many of the writing opportunities you will encounter in Social Studies require you to create a specific type of writing—for instance, a diary entry, a letter, a newspaper editorial, a poem, or an advertisement. Often such writing involves using historical imagination—that is, writing from the perspective of a person living then, rather than now.

An assignment may require, for example, that you address a particular historical figure, such as a former president, or that you write as if you were living through a specific historical event. When given such an assignment, try to imagine what people at the time would have experienced and what they might have thought or said about a particular circumstance or event.

The following guidelines address specific kinds of writing:

A diary is an informal, personal record of your experiences and remembrances (or those of some-one else in history). Entries are dated and consist of brief accounts of the day's happenings and your reactions to them. Mr. Tarbi Y-47

A letter is a personal communication intended for a specific individual.

A newspaper editorial is a public statement of an opinion or a point of view. It takes a stand on a particular topic or issue and provides reasons for that stand.

An advertisement is an announcement to promote a product or event. Effective advertisements are direct and to the point and use memorable language, such as slogans and jingles, to emphasize significant features of the product.

Typing your homework is a good thing, but it is not mandatory. I will give extra points if you type your work. There is no penalty if you don't type your assignment, but I must be able to read your work. If I can't read it, I will not grade it and you get an "F".

If you **choose** to type your homework you must use the following guidelines:

- ⌚ Use **size 12** of the following acceptable fonts: Arial, Times New Roman, Century Schoolbook
- ⌚ It must be **double-spaced**. **Place TWO spaces at the end of every sentence.**
- ⌚ You must have one-inch margins (which automatically appear on most computers) on all sides.

Automatic "no reads":

- ⌚ Size 13 or larger point (to make the paper appear longer)
- ⌚ Any unacceptable font (such as Jester, Old English, Stagecoach, etc.)
- ⌚ Single spaced or 1.5 spaced
- ⌚ Margins wider than one inch (to make the paper appear longer)

Any of these infractions could result in your homework not being read, which would result in a grade of "zero" or "fail".

When writing, you must use complete sentences, all the rules of grammar apply, **and NO DEAD WORDS** should be used in your answers. (See the hand out you got from your English teacher.)

When answering review questions, restate the question, and then answer it. Lastly, when in doubt, please **ASK ME** for help.

Mr. Tarbi, M.A.
8th Grade U.S. History
Yearbook
Fencing

E.M. Cope Middle School