

Questions: Write on one (1) of these questions



Instructions: This assignment is a **900 to 1,300 word** essay (minimum and maximum) that requires students to use *Company Commander* and *Platoon Leader* as primary sources to answer a historical question. Students must upload their essays on Canvas—essays submitted via email or some other form will not be accepted. Students will have one opportunity to check their essays for plagiarism through the Turnitin option on Canvas. ***A student who fails to complete the research essay will fail the course regardless of the totals of his/her other assignments. No outside sources (Wikipedia, books, etc.) are required nor should they be referenced or used.***

Quality: Essays will be graded for clarity, format, and university-level writing skills. Spelling, grammar, clarity of subject, adherence to instructions, and evidence are important. Before submitting your final draft, you should read it (aloud) and ask yourself if it answers the following questions: Does it answer the question? Does it contain evidence/references to specific incidents from each of the books? Does it follow the format and citation instructions? Are the spelling and syntax correct? Are the examples cited appropriate to the argument?

Objective: This is a research assignment that requires answering a question using historical methods: reading primary sources; developing a thesis; writing clearly and concisely; and supporting the thesis with evidence from the sources. The question is *not a prompt*--a means to assist a writer or speaker to say something—this is a disciplined exercise bound by very strict parameters. These papers require students to read *Company Commander* and *Platoon Leader* and to apply critical thinking, writing skills, and source-based evidence to answer the question. (It may be helpful to imagine that SkyNet has destroyed the human civilization, that these books are all that remain of military history, and that John Conner requires a report on what these two books reveal about a very specific question.)

Format: All essays should be in 12-point Times or Times New Roman font, with 1” or 1.25” margins, and double-spaced. The essay question, the student’s name, word count, course number, and acknowledgement of sole authorship should all be at typed at the top of the first page; they will not be included in the word count. Bibliographies should not be included. *Past experience indicates that essays written on Google Docs often have formatting errors when submitted on Turnitin. It is safer to use MS Word.*

Citation Instructions:

Acknowledgement of Sole Authorship: Students must type their names, the question they are answering, and the following words at the top of their essay: “*I certify that the following is my*

own work. I have worked independently in writing all answers. I have documented all citations.”
This acknowledgement will not count towards the word limit. This statement should not be interpreted as prohibiting seeking help from the University Writing Center.

Membership in a group social media site created to share information, quotations, etc. on the research essay will be interpreted as a violation of both this statement and the Aggie Honor Code.

Citations: This research paper requires students to substantiate their thesis by providing evidence from the assigned sources (and nothing else). Some evidence may be references to incidents, but some must be in the form of quotations from the texts. Each research paper must contain three quotations per book. No more than two (2) consecutive lines of text or six (6) total lines of text in the essay may be quotations. After a quotation, insert the short title of the book in italics (*Company or Platoon*), inside parenthesis, with comma and page number, followed by the period ending the sentence. For example, (*Company*, 101). Quotations should be used to convey an author’s interpretation of events or to emphasize a point or theme, not merely to repeat factual information. *Students who fail to use correct citation form will receive no higher than an “80.”*

EXAMPLE: **Correct:** In one instance Macdonald tried to encourage his troops as they were going into combat at Remagen by telling them, “We must win this battle or live as slaves!” (*Survive*, 250). **Incorrect:** “As they approached the German positions at Remagen, the 250 soldiers in Company E, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, each wore a steel helmet, 100 carried submachine guns, 100 carried rifles, and 50 carried mortars, and each had a cigarette dangling from him mouth. Wilson looked at the sweat-soaked column and thought about how he could rouse their courage. He turned to the troops and said ‘We must win this battle or live as slaves!’” (Charles Macdonald, *Company Commander*, page 250). **Mistakes include: exceeds the 2-line restriction; incorrect format; typos; title misspelled; much of quotation contains factual information that could be paraphrased; quotation so long that context lost.**

Students are free to read the texts on Web/Kindle/eBooks, but all quotations must cite the printed page to allow the instructor to verify them.

Essay Format

Your Name

Word Count: Number Here (count only the essay!)

History 230

I certify that the following is my own work. I have worked independently in writing all answers. I have documented all citations.”

QUESTION: Blahblahblahblahblahe

BlahblaBlahblaBlahblaBlahblaBlahblaBlahblaBlahblaBlahblaBlahblaBlahblaB

Style: 1) Give the author or subject's full name/title the first time (i.e. Captain Charles Macdonald, General William Westmoreland--thereafter Wilson, Westmoreland). 2) Use abbreviated forms of the title in the text. 3) Do not explain a quotation. If the quotation is not self-explanatory then don't use it. 4) Avoid qualifiers such as 'like' or 'type' (as in guerrilla-type war. It is either a guerrilla war or it is not—and if it is not a guerrilla then find the correct word to describe it). 5) Avoid superlatives and modifiers. Most adverbs are best omitted. *The instructor views correct style as important and will penalize papers that ignore these instructions.*

Penalties: Grades will be lowered on student papers that

- 1) provide information not directly from the books or fail to address the specifics of the question, and will be penalized at least a grade.
- 2) fail to meet the minimum word-count will be penalized a grade
- 3) fail to follow the correct citation format
- 4) fail to meet the minimum and maximum for quotations

are poorly written, poorly organized, contain numerous careless mistakes, or otherwise non-TAMU quality.

Potential Honor Code Violations

Plagiarism: The Aggie Honor System Office definition of Plagiarism: "The appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit." Plagiarism often occurs when a writer neglects to credit the author of textual sources in a term paper or writing assignment. Plagiarism applies to written or electronic text found in books, journals, magazines, newspapers, web sites, etc. However, it also pertains to visual documents such as photographs, charts, graphs, drawings, statistics and material taken from lectures, interviews or television programs. In other words, it covers all created sources. Less experienced writers may commit plagiarism as a result of an incomplete or poor knowledge of citation and documentation standards or because they are incorporating standards from one field or culture inappropriately into another. Inexperienced writers may also be unsure of the difference between direct quotation, paraphrasing, and summary. Poor notetaking habits may also lead to plagiarism. It is your responsibility as an author, and yours alone, to acknowledge and document your sources. In other words, if you use another person's ideas or words, you must tell the reader which words or ideas you borrowed, from whom, and where he or she might find the text you used."

Paraphrasing: recasting/rewriting someone else's words. For example:

Original quotation: "In ending his inaugural address, President Kenney said: 'And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.'"

A good paraphrase substantially rewrites the passage—without changing its meaning or emphasis. Acceptable paraphrase: In his final remarks at his inaugural speech, President Kennedy urged his fellow citizens to reflect on what they could do to benefit America, not what America could do to benefit them, and what together as Americans they could do to for freedom.

A 'bad' paraphrase omits or revises a few words but retains the majority (51%) of the original text. Unacceptable Paraphrase treated as plagiarism (with changed words highlighted): In the *closing* of his inaugural address, President Kennedy said to *his* fellow Americans *that they* should not ask what *their* country could do for *them* but to ask what *they* could do for *their* country *and* what together *they* could do for the freedom.

It is the student's responsibility to check with the instructor about possible plagiarism if they have a question via email in ample time to make corrections. Demands for immediate assistance in the 48 hours prior to the due date may be ignored.