

Research Proposal -

Overview

The goal this assignment is to provide an evaluation of the topic/issue you identified earlier in the semester and suggest how a scholar might go about further research into the issue. Such a proposal requires an articulation of the issue, a discussion of the historical questions raised by the issue, an evaluation of current scholarship connected to the issue, and a proposal for how further research might be conducted to more fully answer the questions posed.

Research Paper Proposal Objectives

1. Clearly articulate a current issue/topic involving indigenous peoples of the Americas.
2. Propose several historical questions raised by the issue/topic.
3. Evaluate existing scholarship related to the issue and proposed questions.
4. Offer a plan for conducting more extensive research into the issue/topic.
 - a. If possible discuss possible primary sources that could shed light on to the topic and how a scholar might access and evaluate them.
 - b. Successful proposals clearly and specifically describe types of secondary sources that would further elucidate the issue.
 - c. If possible describe how other disciplinary perspectives can contribute to a historical evaluation of the issue.

Format

- 4-6 pages
- Typed, double-spaced
- 12 pt, Times New Roman (or other standard font)
- Uses an appropriate citation style consistently (MLA, Chicago, etc.)

Style

- I do not want to impose a specific style, nevertheless:
- This should be written as an academic paper.
- This should be written as a coherent essay do not simply respond to each objective independently. Try to construct an argument or thesis which summarizes your ideas and addresses the objectives.
- Avoid sounding casual, avoid idioms, avoid contractions.
- Imagine this is being read by an academic audience familiar with the general material.
 - Meaning do not summarize too much or spend too much time outlining the relevant historical events or themes. Focus on the ideas brought up by the author not the history itself.
- “I” statements are okay, but do not over use them. “I felt” “I like” “I believe”

Grading Assessment

- F - Paper does not address the above objectives or only addresses some poorly.
Paper has serious grammatical, spelling, or formatting errors.
- D - Paper addresses the objectives but does not properly use or cite sources
Paper does not convey a clear understanding of major issues concerning Afro-Latin America.
Paper's discussion of methodologies and approaches may be confused, lacking, or ineffective.
Paper does not make clear arguments and points are not supported.
Paper does not properly incorporate appropriate sources.
Papers may have serious grammatical, spelling, or formatting errors.
- C - Paper addresses the objectives satisfactorily.
Paper satisfactorily demonstrates an understanding of major issues concerning Afro-Latin America.
Paper may not demonstrate reflection on broader themes or issues.
Paper satisfactorily integrates appropriate methodologies and approaches.
Paper's incorporation of appropriate sources may be weak or ineffective.
Paper may have some grammatical, spelling, and formatting errors.
- B - Paper provides a good response to the objectives.
Paper conveys a clear understanding of major issues concerning Afro-Latin America, including key issues, concepts, and/or figures.
Paper has clear arguments but may not always support them well.
Paper appropriately and consistently integrates relevant methodologies and approaches.
Paper incorporates and synthesizes appropriate sources.
Paper does not have grammatical, spelling, and formatting errors.
- A - Paper excels at responding to the objectives.
Paper conveys an excellent understanding of major issues concerning Afro-Latin America, including key issues, concepts, and/or figures.
Paper demonstrates unique insights into the material.
Paper has clearly defined arguments and supports them well.
Paper excellently and consistently integrates relevant methodologies and approaches.
Paper expertly incorporates and synthesizes appropriate sources.
Paper is free of grammatical, spelling, and formatting errors.