

Writing in History Guide

Criteria	Description
Thesis and Argument <i>What is your argument?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situates the essay in its historical context • Answers the inquiry question with a thesis statement that is historically defensible and supported by available evidence • Develops the argument throughout paper • Addresses conflicting evidence and/or counterargument
Historical Evidence <i>Primary and Secondary Sources</i> <i>How does evidence support an argument?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides relevant, appropriate, and historically accurate evidence from a variety of sources • Categorizes evidence • Explains source(s) used as evidence
Historical Thinking (Analysis) <i>How do you interpret evidence to support your historical argument?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounts for the source's point of view and/or argument • Effectively explains evidence using appropriate historical thinking skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Historical Significance ○ Cause and/or Effect ○ Change and Continuity ○ Perspective ○ Relevance to Contemporary Issues/Ethical Evaluation • Explicitly connects the interpretation of evidence to the thesis • Corroborates and synthesizes multiple pieces of evidence to support argument
Clarity in Writing <i>How clearly do you develop and communicate your argument?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thesis and topic sentences guide organization ○ Paragraphs are organized into specific topics and are in a logical order to develop the argument ○ Transitions to develop argument and flow • Uses clear discipline-specific language and tone appropriate for intended audience • Demonstrates appropriate use of grammar and spelling • Introduction and conclusion go beyond a restatement of prompt and thesis.