

Writing in History Guide

Criteria	Description
<p>Thesis and Argument</p> <p><i>What is your argument?</i></p>	<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
<p>Historical Evidence</p> <p>Primary and Secondary Sources</p> <p><i>How does evidence support an argument?</i></p>	<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
<p>Historical Thinking (Analysis)</p> <p><i>How do you interpret evidence to support your historical argument?</i></p>	<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
<p>Clarity in Writing</p> <p><i>How clearly do you develop and communicate your argument?</i></p>	<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.