

Mr. Frampton's History 12
Research Essay

Writing a history essay can seem like a daunting task, but if you break it down into several steps, and work on it over a period of time, you should find that it all comes together fairly smoothly.

The hardest part will be to choose your topic, and write your thesis, but once you have done that, follow the steps outlined below:

1. Reading – read from a variety of sources to ensure that you are not getting a biased or one-sided view.
2. Note taking - take notes while you are reading, and make sure that you document where you got your information from. This will make life easier later when you are footnoting and writing your bibliography.
3. Bibliography – start a rough draft of your bibliography by listing all of the sources that you use and visit. You can fine-tune this later.
4. Plan your essay – using the format of intro, body paragraphs and conclusion, create and outline. Think of it like a sandwich - the intro and conclusion hold together all the good stuff in the middle.
5. Drafting – fill in your outline with all of the details, and flesh it out with transitions, etc.
6. Edit – when using a word processing program, much of your editing can be done within it; however, sometimes we make mistakes that we don't notice. Ask someone else to read your paper.
7. Footnotes – add your footnotes.
8. Bibliography – finalize your bibliography. Go through it and delete any sources that you didn't use.

General information and links to other resources

A good place to start is by checking out the [library website](#). It offers you many resources and tools to help you with any research that you are going to do.

Refer to the [World Book database](#), because it gives you an introduction to your topic. It also provides you with links to videos, primary sources and articles.

Then take a look at the “[Alternative Search Engines](#)” page on the library website. We tend to “google” everything, and even though Google is effective most of the time it often

gives us too much information, your search can be more streamlined if you check out some other search engines.

When you do use Google, refer to the Sliderocket presentation on [All Things Google](#) for searching tips.

Use one of the [Citation Generators or Tools](#) to help you with your bibliography.

[Here](#) I've included a sample of a history paper showing correct formatting for title pages, footnotes, etc. It's a good idea to take a look before you submit your paper.

Good luck, and remember that you can always see me for help with your paper!