

**DR. MEALY – HONORS UNITED STATES HISTORY 2:
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT RUBRIC/CHECKLIST**

PAPER SUBMISSION & DEADLINE

10 Points off per day

- _____ Late papers will be penalized 10 points per day beyond the deadline (weekends included). I will not accept the paper after three days late.
- _____ You will submit your paper to me two ways. One, you will email me (not share GoogleDrive) copy of your paper on the assigned due date.
- _____ Two, you will submit an electronic version of your paper to www.turnitin.com.

LENGTH

5 Points

- _____ Paper must be at least 5 full double spaced pages. Paper should not exceed 7 pages, unless you get approval by the teacher. (5 points)

FORMAT

15 Points

- _____ Title page is necessary. The title page must match the template exactly. (The title page does not count as a page. Come up with a catchy title. Include a subtitle that, in a way, states the thesis of your paper. Does your essay have a concise title relevant to its content and key argument(s)? (3 points)
- _____ Number your pages at the top right corner of each page, except page 1. (3 points)
- _____ Times New Roman (3 points)
- _____ 12-Point font size (3 points)
- _____ 1 inch at the top and bottom; 1.25 inches at the right and left margins (3 points)

INTRODUCTION

10 Points

- The paper's introduction establishes the significance or importance of the paper's topic.
- _____ Your introduction has a hook that engages the reader with a memorable quotation, statistic, anecdote or striking sentences (3 points)
 - _____ Your introduction offers insight (from the author) on the topic's relevance to American history (3 points)
 - _____ Your introduction has a thesis statement that does not phrases like, "This paper will discuss..." or "I plan to argue the following..." (4 points)

ESTABLISH ARGUMENT

15 Points

- _____ The paper is logically organized with topic sentences, supporting claims and evidence (6 points)
- _____ Always include a descriptive conclusion that explains the significance of your narrative without repeating the opening (4 points)
- _____ Successfully applied critical insights from other historians (evidence) (5 points)

GRAMMAR, STYLE, & STRUCTURE

15 Points

- _____ The writing has variety, emphasis, and interest to the reader through the use of effective sentences and precision of word choice. The written style is consistently appropriate for an academic audience, although the response may have a few errors in grammar and style. See the Writing Guide – no contractions, capitalize appropriate terms, proper use of punctuation, etc. (5 points)
- _____ As a general rule, students should use third person, active, and past tense constructions. "Smith joined the Marines with reluctance" is better than "It was for the Marine Corps that Grampy Joe was sadly leaving home." (5 points)

- _____ The body of the paper should be organized into paragraphs that have smooth transitions and follow a general chronological scheme. Do not use the phrases “When I asked...” or “When interviewed, he said...” (5 points)

SOURCES

20 Points

- _____ At minimum, you need to cite from four sources: 1) oral history interviews, 2) newspaper or journal, 3), published Internet, 4) books or articles on your topic. (4 points)
- _____ The paper includes relevant evidence from credible sources, including scholarly, peer-reviewed, and credentialed authors. This portion of the rubric deducts points for Wikipedia, history.com, and other encyclopedic sources. (3 points)
- _____ The sources are accurately and consistently cited. (In footnote, it goes “first name last name.” In the bibliography, it goes “late name, first name.”) (2 points)
- _____ You have accurately and appropriately attributed your sources (5 points)
- _____ You have appropriately established a line of credibility for each source mentioned in the body of the paper. (6 points)

QUOTATIONS

10 Points

- _____ The most important evidence in this paper will be quoted material from your interview. Remember to use variety in presentation and to identify and explain each quotation. Compare the following examples:
- A) *According to Smith, his Marine drill instructors during Second World War were “mean and nasty.” He witnessed several “Code Reds,” which were unofficial punishment or hazing rituals inflicted on the worst Marines. “I basically lived in constant fear,” he recalled, “and that was before I went to North Africa.”*
- B) *Grampy Smith hated his Marine drill instructors. “Mean and nasty.” “They used so many Code Reds that I basically lived in constant fear that was before I went to North Africa.”*
- * Attempt to break up direct quotes. I don’t want to see a complete sentence as a direct quote. This is lazy and sloppy work. Try to pull just a few words that you like from another source and embed that passage as quoted material in your paper. Use Example A (above) as a template for how to approach this. (8 points)
- _____ Long Quotes are not necessary in this paper. If you use them, you are limited to one long quote in a paper the size of 5-7 pages. The long quote must be indented, single spaced, “blocked” or justified on each end, and 12 point font size. No quotation marks. Refer to the Writing Guide for an example. (2 points)

BIBLIOGRAPHY & FOOTNOTES

10 Points

- _____ You must use Chicago-style footnotes. Use normal citation format for books and articles.¹ For quoted material from interviews, use the following.² In the case of letters, use the following.³ In footnotes, you must use first-name first, last-name second. (See examples at the foot of the page.) (7 points)
- _____ You must have a BIBLIOGRAPHY at the end of your paper. Include the heading “BIBLIOGRAPHY” in all caps and underline, then list your sources alphabetically. Double space between each source. Your bibliography does not count as a page. Refer to the Writing Guide for help. (3 points)

¹ Emma J. Lapsansky-Werne, et al. *United States History: Reconstruction to the Present*. (New York: Pearson Education, Inc., 2016), 201.

² Veronica Roth, Personal interview with the author. Lancaster, PA. March 15, 1999.

³ Joseph Smith to Geraldine Smith, 6/6/44.