

HISTORY NOW PROJECT INSTRUCTION SHEET**PROJECT IS DUE MAY 4, 2018****PROJECT OVERVIEW**

One of this course's outcomes is for you to be able to "Distinguish between primary and secondary sources and apply appropriate analytical questions to each to demonstrate understanding of their scholarly uses in history." While to some degree you have done this in all your papers, this final assignment is designed so you can **apply the historical thinking skills** you have developed throughout the entire term and **showcase your learning** in this course. As you focus on one single event in great depth, you will make use of fundamental historical concepts we've learned including chronology, sourcing, and historical context.

Your task is to create a collection of sources that focuses on a significant event in American history since 1980. The parts of this project are as follows: **CHOOSE** an event (unique within the class, no duplicates); **SELECT** and **CURATE** a group of 4 *primary sources* that can be used by future students to study the event, using the criteria below; **DESCRIBE** and **JUSTIFY** the sources; **SUMMARIZE** the event in an overview 200-500 words long; **SUBMIT** the project electronically. The entire project is worth 15 points. In future semesters, students in HI 112 will use your packet (without your name on it) to learn about the event and will add to it with sources of their own.

PART ONE: CHOOSE AN EVENT

Choose an event you want to learn more about, and **check it with me by Monday, April 30** (by email or in class) to make sure it isn't duplicated by others in the class. Make sure your event can be CLEARLY DEFINED, and that you can explain why it is important in US history or in the US's role in the world.

PART TWO: SELECT AND CURATE 4 SOURCES

Research and locate FOUR **PRIMARY SOURCES** that future students can use to understand this event. They can be print or electronic sources (like video, audio recording, or digital image), but each must fulfill the following criteria:

- Created during or very soon after the event itself (i.e. not years later)
- Cannot be an encyclopedia/ Wikipedia entry, a website, or a documentary
- Don't use anything already published in the *Exploring American Histories* textbook
- Should be a reasonable length for future student use (for example, an entire 200-page Supreme Court decision or Congressional report would not be a good choice).
- Must be downloadable as some kind of electronic file (such as PDF, .jpg, .gif, mp3) or have a stable internet permalink that doesn't require a password / paywall.

Download your sources to an electronic folder, or create an electronic document (such as a Google doc) with links to them.

PART THREE: DESCRIBE AND JUSTIFY YOUR SOURCES

For each primary source: write a 50-100 word description (in your own words), provide a FULL CITATION and one paragraph justifying why it belongs in this collection. The citation should look like a bibliography entry, it can't be just a URL or link. 2-3 pages total, plus the event summary (below).

PART TWO: EVENT SUMMARY

Write an overview of the event in a 200-500 word essay, explaining clearly what the event is and why it is important in the history of the United States or the US's role in the world since 1980. Imagine that next semester's students will be using this packet, and tell them what they need to know about the event and why it matters. This can be in the same file as your source descriptions and justifications.

SUBMISSION AND GRADING GUIDELINES

Turn in the project by collecting all parts in an electronic folder.

Send it (zipped, if necessary) or share it with me by midnight, Friday May 4.

The project is graded on a **15-point scale** and your results will be given to you at the last exam, or sent via email if I don't see you at the exam.

Sources	4 high-quality primary sources with full bibliographic citation	/4
Descriptions and Justification	All 4 sources are fully described, with persuasive justifications for why they were included	/6
Event Summary	A well-crafted 200-500 word essay providing an overview of the event and explaining its significance	/5
Overall Project Grade	Completes all parts with excellence	/15

Good starting places for primary sources:

Digital Public Library of America <http://dp.la>

LivingRoom Candidate <http://www.livingroomcandidate.org/>

Avalon Project <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/>

Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov/collections/>