

**Hist 1200, Fall 2021: Assignments 1-3, Describe and Defend**  
**Detailed instructions and rubric**

This assignment is designed to help you improve your ability to summarize a lot of information concisely and develop your own independent critical thinking skills.

**D&D1 is worth 10% and is due during Week 4 (submit in Moodle any time between 9am Mon Oct 4 and midnight Sun Oct 10):**

1) Choose the five topics, events, time periods, or individuals that you think are the most important from the lectures and chapter readings from Week 1-4 (lectures 1-8, chapters 1-6). Do not do any additional research. Write a 125-150 word paragraph describing each item clearly, concisely, and accurately in your own words. Try picking at least one item that is new to you and one item that is more familiar. Cite any and all information you get from the textbook or lecture notes (see rubric and examples for how to do this) but do not do any additional research.

2) Write another 125-150 word paragraph for each item telling me why you chose it. What criteria did you use, and why are those criteria important to you? Write your answers in the first person, as in "I chose this item because..." The total word count for the whole assignment should be 1250-1500

3) During Week 5 you will discuss your items with your team members.

**D&D2 is worth 15% and is due during Week 8 (submit any time between 9am Mon Nov 1 and midnight Sun Nov 7)**

1) Choose five more topics, events, time periods, or individuals from Weeks 5-8 (lectures 9-17, chapters 7-13). Follow the same steps as in D&D1, *but if it helps then try to make sure that each paragraph is between 125-200 words.*

2) Then choose your top three items out the ten items you have chosen so far. Write another ~200-250 words on why you chose these three, and what patterns you see emerging. For example, are you choosing mostly military items, or political, or social? Are you emphasizing one period of time or more region over others? What might these patterns reveal about what **you** think is important to study in history? The total word count for the whole assignment should be ~1450-1750.

**D&D3 is worth 20% and is due after the last day of class (submit any time between 9am Thurs Dec 9 and midnight Sun Dec 12).**

1) Choose the five events and/or periods and/or individuals that you think are the most important from Weeks 9-12 (lectures 18-29, chapters 14-20). Follow the instructions as per the first two assignments.

2) Now go back to your first two assignments and look at all 15 items you chose for the three assignments. Choose your top three items and write 200-250 words on why you would still choose these three, and what patterns you see emerging, as per step two above. The total word count for the whole assignment should be ~1450-1750.

3) During Week 12.5 you will discuss your items with your team members.

**Preferred format for all written assignments:** To make it easier for me to read and grade your assignments please double-space the text and at least one-inch margins. You can submit all assignments in Moodle during the specific window, but if you are late then email it to me directly.

### **Rubric**

All three assignments:

#### The “describe” paragraph.

3 points: paragraph is 125-150 words; includes dates/time period; all information is accurate and you indicate where you got the information, for example (*WTWA*, concise 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, p. 87) or (McManus, lecture 4); all sentences are clear with few major spelling or grammar or punctuation errors.

2 points: some information is not accurate, or key information is missing; information is still cited; some sentences are awkward and hard to follow; several spelling/grammatical/punctuation errors.

1 point: information is not cited; paragraph is less than 125 or more than 200 words; sentences are hard to follow due to significant spelling/grammatical/punctuation errors.

#### The “defend/explain your criteria” paragraph

3 points: paragraph is 125-150 words; uses “I” to explain the specific criteria you used to choose the item in paragraph one; all sentences are clear with few major spelling or grammar or punctuation errors.

2 points: some sentences are awkward and hard to follow; several spelling/grammatical/punctuation errors; criteria are too vague

1 point: paragraph is less than 125 or more than 200 words; sentences are very hard to follow; no clear criteria

#### D&D 2 and D&D3, rubric for the final analytical paragraph

5 points: (i) paragraph is ~200-250 words; (ii) uses the first person “I”; (iii) your top choices are clear, and (iv) you explain clearly why you would choose those items. What criteria are you using, what patterns are you noticing in your own choices, and what do those patterns say about what **you** think is important to study in history? (v) All sentences are clear and easy to follow, with few major spelling or grammatical errors.

4 points – demonstrates four of the five criteria described above.

3 points – demonstrates three of the five criteria

2 points: demonstrates two of the five criteria.

1 point: demonstrates one of the five criteria.