

Final Research Paper

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Part of an in-archives exercise at <http://www.teacharchives.org/exercises/scaffolded-research>

Early American History Research Paper Based on Archival Research

Format and Grading

6 pages, typed, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font or equivalent, stapled. This assignment will be graded based on its (1) content, and (2) structure.

Research Issues and Topics

This is a research paper based on both archival research from the archive and secondary library research. You need to write a Brooklyn or New York oriented paper on the particular historical time period or issue that you selected earlier in the semester.

You may focus entirely on Brooklyn or New York or you could link Brooklyn and New York to broader historical changes that occurred throughout the US. For example you could look at entertainment or slavery in Brooklyn and compare it to entertainment and slavery that occurred in other parts of the country.

You can think about your historical period and issues in different ways. For example, your paper could be a compare and contrast, describe a major historical shift, focus on something that seems historically unexpected or surprising, or answer a research question.

Your archival research must play an important role in the paper, but your paper does not need to be based entirely on the archival research. This is a broader paper than the essays that you wrote earlier in the semester that focused more directly on a single or a few documents from the archive.

In addition to the archival research, I expect you to conduct library research for this paper and you will need to cite a minimum of four scholarly sources in this paper (textbooks or encyclopedias do not count). Internet encyclopedias are acceptable, but do not count as one of your four sources. I have supplied the class with a list of books to simplify the library research.