**Research Paper Assignment**

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Part of an in-archives exercise at [http://www.teacharchives.org/exercises/scaffolded](http://www.teacharchives.org/exercises/scaffolded)

**Instructions**

Using your research from the archives, craft a question that relates to your group’s document. Your answer to that question will become your thesis statement. Write a 4-6 page essay that supports your thesis using the array of sources you viewed in the archives. Your goal is to offer an analytical narrative – or, tell a historical story – about race, discrimination, and community response using your document as the lens and the additional archival sources as support. I have offered a list of suggested supplemental sources at the end of this handout, though you should rely primarily on the sources you viewed in the archives. All sources must be cited properly.

**Grading Rubric**

_____ Has a clear, original thesis that stems from a research question: 20 points.

A thesis should appear in the first paragraph. The thesis should relate specifically to your group’s document and should be carried throughout the paper. A cogent thesis is typically one sentence and provides your reader with a clear description of your main analytical point. Points will be deducted if the thesis is not presented, unclear, or not connected to your document.

_____ Use of evidence: 20 points.

You need to support your thesis with evidence. Each argumentative point you make needs the support of evidence. Evidence should be drawn from multiple documents from the collection along with secondary sources. Points will be deducted for unsubstantiated claims, unclear use of evidence, or insufficient range of sources.

_____ Clarity and flow: 15 points.

This category reflects how well you have organized your essay around your thesis. Your essay should offer a breakdown of points and have a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Points will be deducted for essays that do not include these components.

_____ Analysis: 20 points.

Your essay should be analytical, not summary. When you tell the story of your document, your analysis should connect back to your thesis. Points will be deducted when your narrative does not connect to your thesis.

_____ Proper citations: 15 points.

History citations follow the format outlined in the Chicago Manual of Style. Citations for all the main documents in the class are on the blog. Points will be deducted for missing, incomplete, or improper citations.

_____ Proofreading: 10 points.

Proofread your papers. Papers filled with punctuation, spelling, and grammatical errors will lose points.

Total: 100 points