

Summer Assignment between Year 1 History and Year 2 History

Develop Research Paper Topic for your IA.

This Summer assignment will minimize the stress that you have during your Senior year by giving you a strong base to build off of with me over the first few months of school to get a draft of your paper that is solid and able to reach the higher mark bands. Delay will only create more stress as you try to catch up.

- I. Narrow topic through extensive background reading, including some specific academic secondary source material on your topic.
- II. Determine the types of primary sources that you will be utilizing.
 - A. Your research needs to be based on primary source material.
 - B. Your argument will be proven via primary source material, as well as supported by established histories presented in secondary material.
 - C. Exclusive secondary sourced papers generally do not do well on the IB rubric.
 1. If you want to do a research paper on an older topic, something in the medieval world, that is fine. There are primary sources available that are translated.
 2. **The key would be to combine specific primary sources in a unique way: a way that is unique to you and your research question.**
 3. Not a re-hash of someone else's research paper/book.
 4. For example:
 - a) If you were to write about a topic on Galileo the scientist and his trial in 1632, you might decide after doing background reading to focus on his relationship with the Bellarmino, the head of a Catholic order known as the Jesuits.
 - b) Galileo had some correspondence with Bellarmino and about Bellarmino and the Jesuits. (*You would learn this through your specific background reading when developing this topic*).
 - c) You might then think about how his letters could be used to determine his relationship with them.
 - d) So any letters that Galileo wrote, or were written to him, might shed some light on his relationship.
 - (1) The questions would be:
 - (a) Do such letters exist?
 - (b) Do YOU have access to them?
 - i) Are they online?
 - ii) Are they translated?
 - (2) If the answers are "yes" to both. You have found some primary source material that you can use as the basis of your paper.
 - e) You must be careful that you are not just finding the letters cited in a historian's book that that historian used to make his/her argument.
 - f) Obviously, a high school student unfamiliar with the archives for a project will need historians to direct them to what is available. The key is to make sure that you are combining primary sources in a particular way that is unique to your question.
 - g) **This is one of the things that makes history one of the most challenging IB subjects. You have to do A LOT of work before you can even begin to do the work.**
- III. When you have your topic and your primary source material make a list of the materials. This is the basis of your bibliography.
 - A. A bibliography for this project should be about 6-10 secondary sources, utilizing specific parts of the books not the whole book.
 - B. The number of primary sources will vary depending on the topic (the more recent the more primary sources you would be expected to have),
 - C. But the key is to make sure that from the outset you are thinking about a project that is heavily based on primary sources.

By the beginning of school next year. You should have a list of secondary and primary sources. They do not need to be annotated, but should be ready to be turned in at the beginning of the school year.