

California History Research Project

This assignment is for you to deeply explore a topic with California History or California Culture. When you develop your project, keep in mind that it must be discussed in its proper historical context and you must discuss the impact that your topic has had on California History and/or Culture. The entire class will be following the following format for the project:

1. Recognize the need for information and define a research topic.

Your research topic is wide open as long as it pertains to California. You may choose to research an important person, a corporation, an institution, a cultural idea, etc. **What is the question(s) you will answer about your topic?** (i.e. why is this person/thing important, what type of impact have they made in CA? etc.). When considering a research topic, please keep in mind what type of resources are available. Are there any primary documents or secondary documents on your particular topic? If not, you need to pick another topic. **Due 9/21/09**

2. Develop & implement an effective search strategy appropriate for an information need.

What search terms will you be using to find primary and secondary documents? What type of documents are appropriate for your subject matter?

3. Locate and Retrieve Information.

Enter your search terms in two different databases. Compare the results found. Which information fits your topic the best? Please use at least two primary sources. You may use GCC Library proprietary databases (e.g. ProQuest, Ethnic NewsWatch, LATimes Historical, Daily Life Online, etc.) or you can also use databases available on the Internet, i.e. <http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu/> or <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/> are excellent resources. Wikipedia is NOT a suitable source.

4. Evaluate Information

Annotated Bibliography: Use the Annotated Bibliography worksheet and create an evaluative annotation for the primary sources you are using. **Due 10/26/09**

5. Putting it all Together

Choose your format for your project. A typed research paper should be at least 7-10 pages long and you must use either Chicago or Turabian Style format. You may also choose other creative processes to organize and synthesize your materials, such as power point presentations (or other computer based presentations), slide shows, film, etc. Presentation forms other than a traditional research paper, must still be presented with a typed 5-6 page paper assessing your project in the correct context. **Points 30**

Class Presentations: 12/04/09 – 12/14/09 Your grade on your class presentation will be based on efficient use of time, command of research matter, preparedness and ability to contribute to the knowledge of CA History. 20 Points

Ideas for Research Topics:

CA Native American Tribe

CA Not Famous People (personal history?)

CA Business (Disneyland, Silicon Valley, Movie Studios)

CA Industry (Agriculture, Water, Movies)

CA Famous People/Person

CA University/School

CA Art/Architecture/Writer

CA City/Landmarks