

# Final Thematic Essay Assignment

**Due Date: 11:59 pm, Thursday of Unit 8**

**Points: 100**

## Overview:

Throughout the term, you have studied events that shaped the history of the United States. To demonstrate your understanding of U.S. history from the Reconstruction to the modern era, choose one of the thematic essays below. You will write a paper detailing your answer.

## Instructions:

- Choose one of the following essay choices:
  - Immigration - Compare the geographical trends and tensions surrounding the issue of immigration and the United States government response to these tensions for the years 1880 to 1925 and 2000 to the present day.
  - Technology – Analyze the impact of technology on society and politics in the 1920s, 1950s, and 2000s. In what ways was the effect on society and politics in each of these time periods similar and different?
  - War and Politics – Compare and contrast the post-World War I Red Scare, the post-World War II anticommunism campaign, and the war on terrorism after the Iraq War and September 11<sup>th</sup>. What effect did fear have on political decisions, elections, and domestic/foreign policies?
- Include an introduction with a thesis statement, multiple body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

## Requirements:

- The paper should be 3-5 written pages, excluding title and reference page.
- There should be at least 5 reputable sources included in the paper.
- APA format, including an in-text citation for referenced works.

**Be sure to read the criteria by which your work will be evaluated before you write and again after you write.**

## Evaluation Rubric for *Final Thematic Essay Assignment*

CRITERIA	Deficient	Development Needed	Proficient	Exemplary
	(0-1 points)	(2-4 points)	(5-7 points)	(8-10 points)
<b>Thesis Statement</b>	Unclear or incomplete and does not demonstrate an understanding of social studies concepts.	Weak or inadequately developed, and marginally demonstrates an understanding of social studies concepts.	Clear, developed, and demonstrates a limited understanding of social studies concepts.	Clear, well-developed, and demonstrates an analytical understanding of social studies concepts.
	(0-7 points)	(8-13 points)	(14-19 points)	(20-25 points)
<b>Addressed Essay Question</b>	Does not answer all aspects of the essay questions, is missing information, and/or provides inaccurate information. Lacks support by research and examples, may include inaccurate information. Does not demonstrate understanding of content.	Inadequately answers all aspects of essay question or is missing information. Supported by limited research and examples, which may include inaccuracies. Minimally demonstrates understanding of content, demonstrates gaps in understanding.	Minimally or unevenly answers all aspects of essay question. Adequately supported by limited research and examples. Minimally demonstrates understanding of content.	Thoroughly answers all aspects of essay question. Well-supported by extensive research and examples. Demonstrates extensive understanding of content.
<b>Analysis</b>	Analysis is attempted but is minimally developed. Lacks thought and persuasion. Demonstrates minimal or	Analysis of topic is minimally developed, thoughtful, and persuasive. Demonstrates minimal understanding	Analysis of topic is developed, thoughtful, and persuasive. Demonstrates basic understanding	Analysis of topic is well-developed, very thoughtful, and persuasive. Demonstrates in-depth understanding

	inaccurate understanding of theme across time.	of theme across time.	of theme across time.	of theme across time.
	<b>(0-4 points)</b>	<b>(5-9 points)</b>	<b>(10-14 points)</b>	<b>(15-20 points)</b>
<b>Clarity and Organization</b>	Lacks organization, logic and clarity. Transitions seldom used to connect ideas. Shows minimal understanding of essay development.	Organized, but may lack logic and clear articulation. Attempts transitions to connect ideas. Shows limited understanding of essay development.	Generally organized, logical and clearly articulated. Transitions used to connect ideas. Inconsistent in showing understanding of essay development.	Well-developed essay structure. Organized, logical and clearly articulated. Transitions smoothly connect ideas. Shows understanding of essay development
	<b>(0-1 points)</b>	<b>(2-4 points)</b>	<b>(5-7 points)</b>	<b>(8-10 points)</b>
<b>Paper format</b>	APA references provided; no use of in-text citations.	APA format is minimally attempted with errors and/or missing requirements or components. May only cite quotes and include references.	Use of APA format is attempted with errors and/or missing requirements or components.	Proper use of APA format is present throughout the paper.
<b>Sources</b>	Uses/identifies no reputable sources.	Uses/identifies 1-2 reputable sources.	Uses/identifies 3-4 reputable sources.	Uses/identifies 5 or more reputable sources.