

Advanced US History First Semester Final Essay

In place of an exam, we will finish the first semester with a research paper. This paper will be graded using the same writing rubric as the “Indian Removal Act Essay.” We have spent the last several weeks in class covering slavery, segregation and disenfranchisement, and the Civil Rights Movement. In this paper you will be investigating the current status of race in the United States. It will be up to you to develop your own thesis statement and decide which topics to focus on, but some general questions to consider are:

- Is racism still a widespread problem in the United States?
- How is the “American experience” different for people of different races?
- Are we living in a “post-racial” society? Or has society stayed the same?

This is an argumentative essay, like the Indian Removal essay, but there are a couple significant differences:

- You have more freedom to develop your own thesis statement and topic sentences, as long as it addresses the essay prompt above.
- You must cite all of your sources, including the ones I provide, using MLA formatting – both in-text citations and a “works cited” page.

The minimum requirements are:

- Typed, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font
- Work Cited page
- In-text MLA citations for all evidence, works cited page
- Introduction, conclusion, and at least 3 body paragraphs
- At least 6 CDs total
- At least 2 commentary sentences for each CD
- At least 4 different sources used

Due Date: A day B day

On the due date you will submit 1 electronic copy of your essay to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) and turn 1 paper copy into me.

Required reading

These are the readings that we'll be working on for homework and in class. You will need to complete all readings and take notes, Cornell Notes #1. These notes will be turned in on the due date for the essay. All of your MLA citations will come from these sources

Ta-Nehisi Coates, "The Case for Reparations." The Atlantic.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/05/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

Charles Blow, "The Perfect-Victim Pitfall." New York Times.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/04/opinion/charles-blow-first-michael-brown-now-eric-garner.html>

Deroy Murdock, "Liberal Raceaholics." National Review.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/394311/liberal-raceaholics-deroy-murdock>

Jamelle Bouie, "Why I Am Optimistic About the Future of Race Relations in America." Slate.

http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/politics/2014/12/future_of_america_s_race_relations_why_i_am_optimistic_despite_ferguson.html

John Lewis "Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and the 'Other America.'" The Atlantic.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2014/12/michael-brown-eric-garner-other-america-john-lewis/383750/>

Brad Heath. "Racial Gap in US arrest rates." USA Today.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/11/18/ferguson-black-arrest-rates/19043207/>

Laub, Gillian. "A Prom Divided". The New York Times. (see web page for PDF of this article)