

Mr. Jones
ESSAY GRADING CRITERIA

Essay examinations are graded according to the following criteria.

SPECIFIC FACTUAL CONTENT: names, places, dates – Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? This is the factual evidence the student submits in the body of the essay or paper to prove his/her hypothesis or thesis statement. This information is drawn largely from lecture notes, but outside sources are frequently used such as the textbook, the internet, and/or supplemental reading. It is extremely important the student keep names, dates and events in a correct working order. Inaccurate statements lead to fictional writing, which is not the purpose of historical writing. This part of the essay is usually worth approximately 70 percent of the essay grade.

ORGANIZATION: INTRODUCTION with thesis statement or hypotheses - the main pain the student is attempting to make with the essay. This may take the form of challenging the teacher's view states in class, agreeing with the information presented in class, or challenges the standard interpretation of the events. This part of the essay informs the reader the direction the essay will take. BODY with factual evidence, marked either topically or chronologically with one or the other factor assuming precedence. A chronological format is usually the most simple form although the topical format is better for making a strong argument against the normal interpretation. The CONCLUSION usually reflects a restatement of the thesis and the pointed comments reflecting the value judgments summarizing the end results of research. The overall organization of the essay is worth about 15 percent of the grade.

STYLE: is important because it effects the instructor's impression of the essay or paper. Legibility is essential for obvious reasons. Papers written in pen rather than pencil are preferred because darker writing is easier to read than the lighter imprint of the latter. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization and continuity are significant because the essay fails to communicate if these are lacking in quality. Students who write well tend to do better than their comrades who can not communicate clearly in written format. Although shallowness is not the chief criterion for well-received essay writing, a well-written essay that says little might receive an equally high grade than an essay packed with relevant and highly specific facts, but is poorly written. The style of the essay is worth 15 percent.

