

Progressive Era for Whom Thesis Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to develop your skills writing a clear thesis statement in response to a historical problem/question, and supporting that thesis using historical evidence. It relates directly to learning outcomes #2 and 6.

Instructions

1. Write a thesis statement (1-2 sentences) that answers the question: Was the early twentieth century a Progressive Era for African Americans?
2. List five primary sources that you would use to support your thesis (identify them by their number; i.e., 3.2, 4.4, etc.). For each, you must write a paragraph that clearly and specifically explains how each source supports your thesis (how does the source specifically provide evidence that would support your thesis?). Be as specific as possible explaining each source's relation to your thesis; you will be graded on the clarity, logic, and accuracy of your explanations. To support your explanation, you must include at least one specific example from that source that illustrates your point(s) (this can be a quote, a statistic, something about the nature of the source, etc.). Your sources must include one of the documents from the "Data on Black Life" section (docs. 2.1-2.9) and at least one document from three of the other four sections (Education, Work, Lynching, and Politics). That leaves one more document that can come from any of the primary source sections of the book. Only one of the sources that you use can be a photograph/image.

Powhatan and the English Thesis Assignment

This assignment will assess your ability to evaluate an argument using primary source evidence and your ability to construct a clear thesis statement using historical evidence. It will also

prompt you to think critically about the interactions between North America's indigenous population and English colonizers? This assignment connects to the course learning outcomes involving the Native American experience and constructing historical arguments using primary and secondary sources.

Instructions

This assignment has two parts.

Part I (60 points)

For this part, you will write two paragraphs that will evaluate the following historical claim/statement:

"Had it not been for the tactical mistakes of Powhatan leaders, the English would not have displaced the Powhatan from their Chesapeake homelands."

- Your first paragraph must make an argument "For" (in support of) the statement. In doing so, you must clearly and directly cite/use two pieces of evidence (two different documents/readings) from the book (you may use any readings in the book, except for the two "Historians Conversations" essays). If you are quoting from a source, the quoted passage should be no longer than sentence. Cite your evidence by providing the document number and page number (i.e. Doc. 1.6, p. 48). Title this paragraph "For". Your paragraph must begin with a clear thesis statement that expresses your agreement/support of the claim/statement.
- Your second paragraph must make an argument "Against" the statement. In doing so, you must clearly and directly cite two pieces evidence from the book (you must use the primary source documents and not the "Historians Conversations" essays). The two pieces of evidence can not come from the same section of the book. If you are quoting from a source, the quoted passage should be no longer than sentence. Cite your evidence by providing the document number and page number (i.e. Doc. 1.7, p. 50). Title this paragraph, "Against". This paragraph must begin with a clear thesis statement that expresses your disagreement with the claim/statement.

Your answers to these questions will be evaluated on their historical accuracy, the clarity of your points, and your use of the evidence to support those points.

Part II (40 points)

For this part, you will write a thesis statement that answers the "Big Question": How were the English able to displace the thriving Powhatan people from their Chesapeake homelands in the seventeenth century? Then, you will list three sources from the book that you would use to support/develop this thesis in an essay (note, you do not need to write an actual essay). Identify specific sources by their title and number, i.e.: Speech of

Powhatan (1608), as Reported by John Smith (1624), reading 1.5. You may use any of the sources in the book EXCEPT the Position 1 and 2 essays. For each source, you must clearly and specifically explain how it would support your thesis (how does the source specifically provide evidence that would support your thesis).

For this part, you will be evaluated on the clarity of your thesis statement and the logic, clarity, and accuracy of your explanation for each selected document.