# United States History - Research Skills Assignment

**Objective**

The goal of this assignment is to help you to become familiar with basic reference tools in the library and the use of bibliographic citations. The assignment also ensures that students learn how to find and effectively use information found during research. Ask for help from Mrs. Moyer or a librarian AFTER you have really tried the following steps and still cannot figure it out. Read this sheet before beginning. If you follow the steps below, you can do the assignment.

In order to complete this assignment, you will need to use the MLA format for bibliographic citations. Use the online program Noodle Tools to assist with creating the appropriate bibliographic citations for each source. There is a link to Noodle Tools which can be reached from the mycreekcreek website which can be accessed via mycherrycreek.  
 **For remote access to the library:** username: creek  
 password: bear

**Format**

1. You will be given 3 different topics that you will need to research using a variety of methods.   
2. Upon completion, you will submit:  
 **-Five facts from a print source with parenthetical citations on Topic I  
 -A printed out, highlighted and annotated article from a database on Topic II  
 -Two completed website (CRAP) and evaluation paragraphs on Topic III|  
 -Works Cited for all four sources (print, database and two websites).**

3. ***The bibliographic citations for all of your sources should be combined on the last page of the assignment.***  Remember that bibliographic citations should be listed in alphabetical order and double-spaced.

**Tip: While working on this assignment save your work in Google docs. You can access this any place with internet access and it will be a place to access it in case you have difficulty printing it out on the day it is due!**

**Grading**

Grades for this assignment will be negatively affected by misspelled words, incomplete titles, incorrect capitalization and *punctuation*, parenthetical citations or bibliographic information, misplaced or forgotten periods and commas. It adds up quickly so be careful and proofread.

Also, all summaries should be put into **your own words** and should be in complete sentences.

**If you have any trouble with this assignment, please see Mrs. Moyer or a librarian.**

# Part I Print Media

# Reference & Circulating

To find books in the CCHS Library, go to the library home page which can be accessed via the Cherry Creek High School website. Click on “Find a book” and the “library catalog” Type in a word for the assigned topic next to the orange “search” button. Limit your search words to no more than 3 words and link them with AND. You will find a shelf # for each book. If the shelf # has an **REF** in front of the number, it will be in the Reference area of the library. (Example: **REF** 973.8 Enc) The reference area of the library is the north/west section and is labeled as REFERENCE. If there is no REF in front of the call #, the book will be in the Circulating area of the library. The circulating area is at the east end of the library. If it has a B in front of the number it is in the far north/west section of the library in the biography section. Do not use call letters with an F in front of it as these are fiction books. Each bookshelf has a label at the end to designate the shelf #’s for that section.

**Directions, do ONE of the following:**

**Reference Books:**

**Find one specific reference book\* that contains information on your topic. Note: General Encyclopedias do not fulfill this requirement. Write 5 important facts found in this source on your topic. These can be in a bulleted list. The appropriate bibliographic citation for this book should be included on the last page of the assignment.**

**Circulation Books:**

**Find one book in the circulating book\* section of the library that contains information on your topic. Write 5 important facts found in this source on your topic. These can be in a bulleted list. The appropriate bibliographic citation for this book should be included on the last page of the assignment.**

\*Hint: It is unlikely that you will find an entire book on your topic. Instead use the index and table of contents of the sources to find information on your topic.

As you find your five facts, be sure to cite using parenthetical citations. *Period at the end of the sentence, after the citation.*  
 ex: Mrs. Moyer’s birthday is August 13 (Green 23).   
 (author’s last name space page number).   
\*You need to cite ANYTHING you don’t already know-quotes, facts, summations, etc.

## Part II Databases

To access the online subscription databases go to the Library page of the Cherry Creek High School website and click on “Research Resources” then click on “databases and ebooks”. Click on “history” to narrow the list of databases to ones which are relevant to history. If you are accessing the databases from home you will need to use the following: **Username: creek**

**Password: bear**

(There are a few cases where you will need different access codes and you can find these on the “Research Resources page”.)

**Using the U.S. History in Context**, **ABC-CLIO American History, or History Reference Center databases find one which directly relates to your topic. Print out the article and highlight and annotate the *most important ideas* found on your topic. The appropriate bibliographic citation for the articles should be included on the last page of the assignment.**  
  
Text of article should be between 2-3 pages. Do **NOT** print out the citations at the end of the article.

**\*Find information about your topic from 2-3 databases before selecting a source to print.  
  
\*\*\*Highlight and annotate your article and attach it to your assignment.**

Part II I Evaluating Websites

There is an overabundance of information on the Internet. This is a good thing because one can find information on just about anything. However, because the internet is unregulated one can often find websites that do not provide credible information. In order to become a proficient researcher you need to learn to separate “good” websites from poor websites. Use the website evaluation sheet to help you do this.

Note: Wikipedia is not a credible website and should not be used on this or any other assignment in this class.

Directions: Part III– Locate two websites which relate to your topic. Fill out the website evaluation for each website (CRAP) and turn it in with your assignment. Submit the evaluation based on the website evaluation that you filled out, as to the quality of each website. You should submit two paragraphs in all for this portion of the assignment. You must include the bibliographic citations for each web site on the last page of the assignment.

You will submit the website rubric as well as a paragraph evaluating each website (2 paragraphs in total). Use this formula to respond to the question “To what extent is the website a credible source for academic research?” - Although X, Y because A, B and C. Then have three supporting sentences that support points A, B & C. Pay attention to spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and paragraph structure.

Schedule for days in the library and computer lab:

Day 1 – Meet in West Wing of Library/Orientation & begin research

Day 2 – Meet in Computer Lab B in the Tech Center in Library

Day 3 – Meet in Computer Lab B in the Tech Center in Library

Day 4 – Meet in Computer Lab B in the Tech Center in Library

Rubric:

**Part I: Print (5 points)**

Five facts are included which are **relevant** to the topic and

attention is given to spelling, capitalization, punctuation etc.  
Facts are properly cited using **parenthetical citations** (5 points)

/5

**Part II: Database (5 points)**

-Print out of one article from appropriate databases are

attached to the assignment. (2 point)

-Major ideas about topic are highlighted throughout the articles   
– includes annotation. (3 points) /5

**Part III: Website (10 points)**

Website evaluation (CRAP) is completely filled out. (2 point each/4 points total) /4

Evaluate each cite using the following:

-Although X, Y because A, B and C. Then have three supporting sentences

that utilize specific examples are used to support your thesis. Attention is

given to spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraph structure

and capitalization. (3 points each/6 points total) /6

**Works Cited (5 points)**

A bibliography, using the MLA format, with all appropriate

citations is included at the end of the assignment. Sources

are appropriate for each topic. (5 points)  
(Four total: one print, one database and two webpages) /5  
  
 TOTAL POINTS /25