

Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Environmental Context of Human History

Mock Research Paper (25 points)

Due Thursday 15 November

The assignment and its objective. For your third paper, your mission is to compose a two-page essay on a completely fictitious topic, supported with bogus evidence from non-existent sources. For example, you might propose the thesis that Pope John Paul, II and Minnesota Governor Jesse "The Body" Ventura are the same person. As in this example, the topic need not come from our course readings. Dream up your source publications, even to the point of composing (and then citing) quotations from them. I would like you to use at least five sources. In terms of content, this assignment does *not* represent scholarship.

Although your paper's content will be groundless, its style should be rock solid. Use good essay structure, clearly articulating a thesis and using (in this case, invented) evidence and a logical argument to support that thesis. Cite and list your fictitious references in APA style. The paper should *look like* a real research essay! Refer to the Research Essay assignment for further directions.

Essay writing. To help guide your essay writing, let me repeat the instructions I gave you the first and second times.

1. Select a clear, meaningful thesis, and introduce that thesis in a paragraph that previews the rest of the paper. Ensure that the reader knows what you are talking about and why it is a significant issue. Make the reader want to read the rest of the essay.
2. Follow that introduction with paragraphs (with one main idea each) that present evidence and logical arguments in support of that thesis. Convince the reader that your thesis has merit. (In long essays, it is also helpful to use the body of the paper to refute counter-arguments.)
3. End your essay with a paragraph that states the essay's conclusions clearly and effectively. Give the reader a "take-home" lesson.

All papers in this class should follow these formatting guidelines.

1. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, and use a font no smaller than 10 point. (I think that 12 point represents the best general font size for papers.)
2. Do not use a separate title page. Under the paper title, at the top of the first page, write your name, your campus box number, the class, and the date.
3. Cite references according to APA style guidelines.