

Department of History: Writing-Related Student Learning Outcomes
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General Goals

Content Knowledge, Research Methodology, Evidence-Based Arguments, Abstract Thinking

General Writing-Related Outcomes

Content Knowledge: Student demonstrates understanding of lecture and assigned reading content through responses to objective prompts in formal, informal, open form, and expressive in-class and out of class assignments (Ex. Describe the origins of the U.S. Civil War; Summarize the origins and impact of the Emancipation Proclamation).

Research Methodology: Student demonstrates understanding of methodological approaches by applying them to subjective prompts dealing with historical interpretations (Ex. Compare and contrast literary and ethnohistorical methods for understanding the Sun Dance).

Evidence-Based Arguments: Student demonstrates understanding of different types of evidence through responses to subjective prompts in which they are asked to form conclusions using multiple types of evidence (Ex. Using participant letters, government statistics, and post-event art, explain U.S. perceptions of the Battle of New Orleans in the early 19th century).

Abstract Thinking: Student demonstrates comprehension of analytical concepts commonly employed by historians through low-stakes writing assignments built around close readings of primary sources. (Ex.: Most modern-day scholars view race as a “social construction” with no basis in biology but with very real consequences for society. Students might be asked to discuss changing conceptions of race through close readings of selected primary sources, such as colonial/state laws and US census categories).

Level-Specific Learning Outcomes

Survey-Level: Student demonstrates ability to use provided materials to perform basic analysis for improved comprehension of primary source

Upper-Level: Student demonstrates ability to locate and utilize range of secondary materials to contextualize and analyze primary sources (compare and contrast) : address major problems; and make evidence-based arguments

Graduate-Level: Student demonstrates ability to locate and utilize range of secondary materials to address abstract themes / major problems (historiography)