World War II Project (Winter 2020)

This project is to write a two-page paper, on a topic related to WW2, using at least 3 sources.

WHAT TO WRITE: whatever topic you choose, do 1 <u>or more</u> (but yes, it's ok to do just 1!) of the following,

- explain the basic facts of that topic, and why/how it was important during World War 2,
- what it means to you, personally, and/or to the course of history, or some groups of people,
- ask a question about it that people might not know the answer to, and say why knowing that information is important
- write a 'what if' to say how things might be very different (for better or for worse) if key events related to that topic had been different.

ABOUT SOURCES: Sources are listed on the '<u>WW2 articles</u>' page of the class website.

If your topic is not covered very much by the articles and videos listed on the website's page, you can add sources--that you find--to get more info on that topic. However, you still have to use *at least* 2 from that page.

You have to show how you used those sources. If we were in class, I would go over how to do this using the MLA rules for in-text citations. Given the current situation, just **do the best you can** with whatever way you know or can figure out, to show which of your sources give the information in quote or sentence.

You only have to **do this for info that isn't basic, 'common knowledge'** for the topic. If two sources for a topic, give a lot of the same facts or opinions about it, whatever info they are saying that is the same, is 'common knowledge'. For example, the dates for WW2, and who was on each side, and when certain battles happened—those are all 'common knowledge'. On the other hand, there is a recent book that says German soldiers were using and affected by an early version of meth. Other articles are talking about the idea because of that book. So that topic/info isn't yet 'common knowledge'. Again, **do the best you can** with deciding when information needs a source. If you have 4 or 5 citations, you're ok. When you quote a source—word for word or just in a general way—you ALWAYS have to say which source the quote/ideas come from.

Normally I would explain how to cite your sources. At this point, however you figure out to do so, is fine. If you use the built-in footnotes feature of a word processing program, or if you just say in the sentence that the information comes from a certain source, that works. If you already know how to do the MLA version of in-text citations, great, but if not, **do the best you can**.

I will find videos on how to cite sources and post them at the bottom of the page listing WW2 related articles, along with links to the easybib.com website and other online resources.

Whatever sources you end up using, list them, <u>*after*</u> the 2 pages of writing, with as much of the following information as possible, <u>in this order</u>. Put a period between each item:

- the **person(s)**—who created that source (author, video host, etc.)
- the **title(s)**—the article's title, or the video's title. If the article is from a magazine/website, give that title also, AFTER the title of the article or video.

- the **publisher/organization** that helped share/present/publish the source—could be the publisher of a magazine or the group that provides the website where that source came from. (For videos, this would be the channel on YouTube, <u>not YouTube, itself</u>. Also, Google isn't a source—it is a tool for finding sources, so: list the website you find with google, but <u>not Google, itself</u>.)
- the **date that source was created/updated**—this could be a copyright date, or the date something was posted online, or the 'updated on' date. Whichever of those seems to best say how 'fresh' that source is. If you cannot find a date, at least give the date you looked at that source.
- a **web address, or URL** for where your source can be found online.

Not all sources list all of those things clearly. Sometimes you can find them by looking at the 'home' or 'about' links on a website. The main thing is to try to find those bits of information about a source.

If you are not sure of a topic, here are some that make sense for a 2-page paper. If you have a different idea and want to check with me, post that as question on Padlet.

- What did Germany try to do differently in WW2, compared to WW1?
- How did the U.S.S.R./Russia's role change in the course of WW2?
- How did the U.S., Great Britain, and the U.S.S.R./Russia get along during WW2?
- Name a key battle or 'front' in WW2; explain how fighting there affected the outcome of the war.
- Why did Hitler have anti-Semitic, racist views?
- What were the key events of the Holocaust?
- What are some examples (name 2) of people who did the right thing, in response to the Holocaust.
- How does the Holocaust relate to other examples of genocide?
- How were African-Americans affected by/involved in WW2?
- How were women affected by/involved in WW2?
- During WW2, Japanese Americans in the Western U.S. and Hawaii were forced into 'internment' camps. How did that affect them? How were German Americans and Italian Americans treated?
- What other ethnic groups were affected in some way that was different for them than for the rest of the U.S. population?
- What weapons were new during WW2, or what WW1 weapons were brought to a new level in WW2, and how did having those versions of weapons matter?
- Should the U.S. have used the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?
- How did bombing of cities and towns—by both sides—compare to the use of atomic bombs?
- How much did the output war supplies by U.S. factories and companies and workers, matter?
- How did life change for Americans—here in America—during WW2?
- How did the code breaking efforts of each side help them in the war?
- How were lessons about peace terms from WW1 used in making peace after WW2?
- How did the U.S. and U.S.S.R./Russia deal with Nazis after the war?
- What was 'Operation Paperclip'?
- What were the Nuremberg Trials?

I hope that gives you some ideas, but there are many, many more topics—major and minor—that you could write about.