

Historical Essay

Essays: Participants will write two essays on two different, historically significant topics, issues, or questions approved by the instructor. For examples: What role has gender played in the historical experience of people with disabilities? How have the historical experiences of blind people and deaf people parallel and differed from one another? What values and ideologies have shaped various public policies and various cultural representations regarding disability especially as related to workforce preparation?

The essays will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Argument/Organization. Does the paper identify a significant topic or issue? Does it propound a thesis clearly? Is the thesis developed and supported with a coherent and convincing argument? Is the conclusion effective in summing up the argument?
2. Evidence/Analysis. Does the writer make accurate use of primary and secondary sources to support the argument? Is sufficient evidence provided to develop his or her claims persuasively? Does the writer demonstrate analytical and critical skills in using these sources?
3. Historiography. Does the writer demonstrate a working knowledge of theories, concepts, and methods central to the subject and to the discipline of history?
4. Expression. Does the writer use language skillfully and appropriately? In other words, does the writer use a variety of sentence structures and appropriate vocabulary for a formal essay? Is the writing coherent? Do ideas flow clearly? Are they connected logically?