

Instructions

Each paper will comprise four brief essays of 300 words each (= 1 page, double-spaced, 12-pt. font), on four pieces of material evidence. The evidence might be as small as a coin or as large as a city gate. For each paper, I will provide a sheet with six items from which you must select three; the fourth item is your choice. For the first two papers, the fourth item must be an object on display in the Science Museum's current exhibit, *Dead Sea Scrolls: Life in Ancient Times* (<http://www.mos.org/exhibits/dead-sea-scrolls>). (We will be visiting the show as a class on Sunday, Sept. 22nd.) For the third paper, you may select anything that we have discussed in class as your fourth item.

Each individual 300-word essay must include all of the following:

- identification, including name, physical context, and date;
- a very succinct description (about 2-3 sentences);
- one way in which this item illuminates its *immediate* time and place;
- one way in which this item improves our understanding of some larger issue, be it political, economic, literary, or cultural;
- considered use and proper citation of at least two of *assigned* readings.

Note that the radically short length of each essay (single page, double-spaced) will require careful thought and multiple rewrites in order to make your points with force, focus, and clarity.

Grading criteria

Each essay is worth five points, for a total of 20 points total. Grades are assigned as follows:

- 5 points: Excellent. The essay is factually accurate in all details, makes a larger point that is supported by the facts presented, thoughtfully incorporates assigned reading, and is well written.
- 4 points: Good. The essay is factually accurate in all details, thoughtfully incorporates assigned reading, makes a point and/or is well written.
- 3 points: Fair. There is some factual information presented but also some errors, the ideas are general rather than focused and/or not directly related to the facts presented, the writing is repetitive and/or sloppy, assigned reading is not properly used.
- 2 points: Poor. The essay is error-laden in facts and/or the ideas to be drawn from them, there is no larger point, the writing is repetitive, sloppy, and often unclear, absent or incorrectly used references.
- 1 point: Fail. No true information is offered, no ideas are presented, writing is sloppy and unclear.

Due Dates: Paper 1: 10/3; Paper 2: 10/31; Paper 3: 11/26.
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