

**HIST 2110 Survey of United States History
Spring 2021
Online**

Series Finale

Instead of doing the more traditional style of timed final examination, this assignment will allow you a chance to think creatively through what you have learned this semester. The objective of this assignment is to *synthesize* knowledge you have already acquired, to see connections across time periods and to think about primary and secondary sources in an applied way. I have called this the “Series Finale,” because in some ways, like a television show, we are at the culmination of an epic drama that covered the time span of American history in 7 episodes, or modules.

For this assignment, I want you to imagine that it is the year 2024. It is presidential election season and a presidential candidate has asked you to produce a brief document summarizing what you think they should know about American history to be an effective president.

You will choose **five primary sources and two secondary sources** (list on page 2) that you think give the president a good sense of who the American people are, the unique nature of U.S. politics, what major crises they have faced, and how both oppression and the quest for freedom have been an integral part of the American experience. You should aim for a selection of sources that covers the long time span of American history and covers several themes. For instance, perhaps you think the president should know about how abolitionists fought to create a more equal society. You might select the Angelina Grimke speech as a primary source and the “History in Brief: Fighting to End Slavery” as a secondary source, and then explain why you think the president should know about abolitionists. The textbook can be one of your secondary sources, but you should pick out a specific section that you think your presidential candidate should read. The directions you can take this assignment are practically endless. The list of the sources assigned in this class can be found below, in order of when they were assigned.

Papers should be approximately 800-900 words (roughly 3 double-spaced pages). You must turn in the Series Finale Paper by **Saturday, April 24 at 11:59 PM**. I will be holding a live session online on Friday evening where you can get your questions about the assignment answered, and a few more ideas about how to tackle the assignment. I’ll announce the time in iCollege and have a link in the Final paper folder.

You must submit your paper on iCollege in the dropbox of the module folder. Do not e-mail it to me. Microsoft Word or PDF will be the only formats accepted **I will be running a plagiarism check**, so be sure that you are turning in your own, original work.

Source List

* **Bold** indicates primary source, others are the secondary sources.

U.S. History textbook

A Historian's Take on the Columbian Exchange

History in Brief: "The Birth of Racial Slavery"

History in Brief: "A Republic, If You Can Keep It"

"Would You Have Been a Federalist or Anti-Federalist?"

Federalist Papers No. 51

Anti-Federalist Essay of "Philadelphiensis"

History in Brief: Justifying Slavery

History in Brief: Fighting to End Slavery

Bennett Barrow, Plantation Rules

Angelina Grimke Speech

Pro-slavery Argument from a Virginia Newspaper

History in Brief: "Lincoln, Slavery, and the Civil War"

Declaration of Secession: Georgia

Abraham Lincoln to Horace Greeley

Abraham Lincoln, "Emancipation Proclamation"

History in Brief: A Key Turning Point: 1877
"South Carolina's Forgotten Black Political Revolution"

History in Brief: The Wild 1920s

Matthew Willis, "When Forced Sterilization was Legal"

Stone Mountain and the Rebirth of the KKK

Claude McKay, "If We Must Die"

Langston Hughes, "Let America Be America Again"

Ma Raine, "Jealous-Hearted Blues"

Duke Ellington, "East St. Louis Toodle-Oh"

Poetry Foundation, "An Introduction to the Harlem Renaissance"

Rudy Vallee, "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime"

Franklin Roosevelt, "Fireside Chat"

"Duck and Cover"

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka

"An Appeal for Human Rights"

King, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

Martin Luther King Interview 1967

History in Brief: Youthful Activism of the 1960s

Ronald Reagan, Inaugural Address"

Jerry Falwell, "Listen America"

AIDs Crisis in the 1980s

"Greed is Good"

History in Brief: The Conservative Resurgence of the 1970s and 1980s

"9/11 to Now: Ways We Have Changed"

Assignment Rubric

Goal	Description	Mark
Content and Evidence	This is the most important goal! Paper is supported by relevant evidence from the iCollege documents, lectures, textbook, and other course material. You should only use course material, and not outside resources without prior permission.	
Analysis/Critical Thinking	The paper demonstrates that you have thought critically about the assignment questions and have considered all aspects of the question. Provides well-reasoned and historically informed examples that support your points.	
Organization/Integration of Sources	Paper is organized in a logical manner by introducing your point of view and integrating sources in a manner that helps illuminate your perspective.	
Mechanics	The paper is proofread, free of grammatical errors, answers all parts of the question, and meets the length requirements. Your paper includes citations for sources that you have used.	
Style	Paper considers the style of writing demanded by the paper options (i.e., letter, diary entry, etc.—in this case, it should resemble a communication to the presidential candidate.	