

## HIS 241 Milestone One: Paper Topic Submission Guidelines and Rubric

**Overview:** For the final project for this course, you will write a thesis-driven research paper on a historical argument that demonstrates an understanding of World War Two. For your first milestone, due in Module Two, you will submit your paper topic. As you have only just begun your project, you may not have a large research base, but you should be developing your topic idea with an eye towards the primary and secondary sources needed to prove your argument. Your topic submission should move beyond a general idea (“I want to write something relating to the German air force”) and should show that you are drawing your paper topic from your own general interests as well as critical research.

**Prompt:** To begin, you will choose a topic around which you will base your thesis statement. Your thesis statement will establish a historical argument that will be the focus of your paper.

### Some possible topics for your final paper include, but are not limited to:

- The failure of international peacekeeping organizations to restrain the outbreak of a second world war
- Analysis of the differing pre-war diplomatic maneuverings of major and minor powers
- The diplomatic and strategic working relationships between the Axis and Allied powers
- Interwar technological developments and their effect on the outcome of the war
- The Versailles Treaty and the rise of rightist parties in Germany
- The relationship between World War One and fascist ideology
- Colonialism and its influence on the cause and conduct of the War in the Pacific
- Differing war economies and their respective effectiveness
- The relationship between intelligence (Enigma and MAGIC programs) and Allied military success
- The factor(s) that led to Allied victory and/or Axis defeat
- The importance of ideology in tactical and strategic mobilization
- The Holocaust and the relationship between the war and its development/progress/goals

### Specifically, the following critical elements must be addressed:

- **Topic Selection:** Select a topic related to World War Two that will develop into your thesis statement/historical argument.
- **Research Methods and Sources:** Provide a short summary of how you intend to research primary and secondary sources (with at least some indication of what sources you will use and what they will provide).
- **Plan:** Include a plan for how you will narrow your topic into a thesis-driven paper.

**Rubric**

**Guidelines for Submission:** The topic of submission should follow these formatting guidelines: double-spaced, 1-page Word document, 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins, and Chicago-style citations. **If you do not receive “Proficient” on the first critical element, you cannot earn points for this assignment.** Please see the feedback provided by your instructor and re-submit, as needed.

**Instructor Feedback:** This activity uses an integrated rubric in Blackboard. Students can view instructor feedback in the Grade Center. For more information, review [these instructions](#).

Critical Elements	Proficient (100%)	Needs Improvement (70%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
<b>Topic Selection</b>	Selected topic is appropriately within the domain of World War Two history and the assignment		Selected topic is not within the domain of World War Two history and the assignment	20
<b>Research Methods and Sources</b>	Provides a detailed summary of proposed research methods and cites sources that will be used	Provides a summary of research methods but does not cite sources that will be used	Does not provide a summary of research methods	30
<b>Plan</b>	Includes a plan for how the topic will be narrowed into a thesis-driven paper	Includes a plan, but plan does not explain sufficiently how the topic will be narrowed into a thesis-driven paper	Does not include a plan for narrowing the topic into a thesis-driven paper	30
<b>Articulation of Response</b>	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, or syntax	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, or syntax that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, or syntax that prevent understanding of ideas	20
<b>Total</b>				<b>100%</b>