

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Historic Narrative:

Historical narratives are based on historic persons, places and events, and it combines fiction with nonfiction. Like nonfiction, historical narratives describe people who actually lived and events that actually happened. However, historical narrative also includes fictional people and details imagined by the writer.

Historical narrative encompasses the following characteristics:

- Accurate historic events and details of actual places
- One person's point of view written in first or third person.
- Some characters and circumstances invented by the author, but anchored in the time period...no anachronism (future things in the past.)
- Present a problem or conflict that the character(s) must resolve by the narrative's end.
- Chronological organization, written in past tense.

Remember: This is fiction *based on facts*, so research is required!

Assignment Requirements:

The assignment is to write a traditional historic narrative that tells about an historical event during the lifetime of Napoleon, 1769 to 1821 or more broadly, 1750-1850.

- **Setting (Time and Place):** The plot must revolve around an actual event that is directly or indirectly related to Napoleon. Use vivid, descriptive words and sensory details to tell when and where the narrative takes place.
- **Elements of Style:** Include **three (3) elements of Romanticism and two (2) elements of Gothic Lit** into your narrative.
- **Key Words and Terms:** Include **eight (8) key words and terms from the time period** in your narrative to illustrate what life was like at the time.
- **Elements of Character Development:** Your narrative should have **a protagonist and an antagonist with at least 2-3 minor characters. These characters may be historic and/or fictional characters.** These characters are developed through **indirect and direct characterization.** Interactions between these characters should be true to what historians know of these historic figures.
- **Theme:** The narrative should have a clearly developed overarching theme identified by you on a single page at the end of the narrative.

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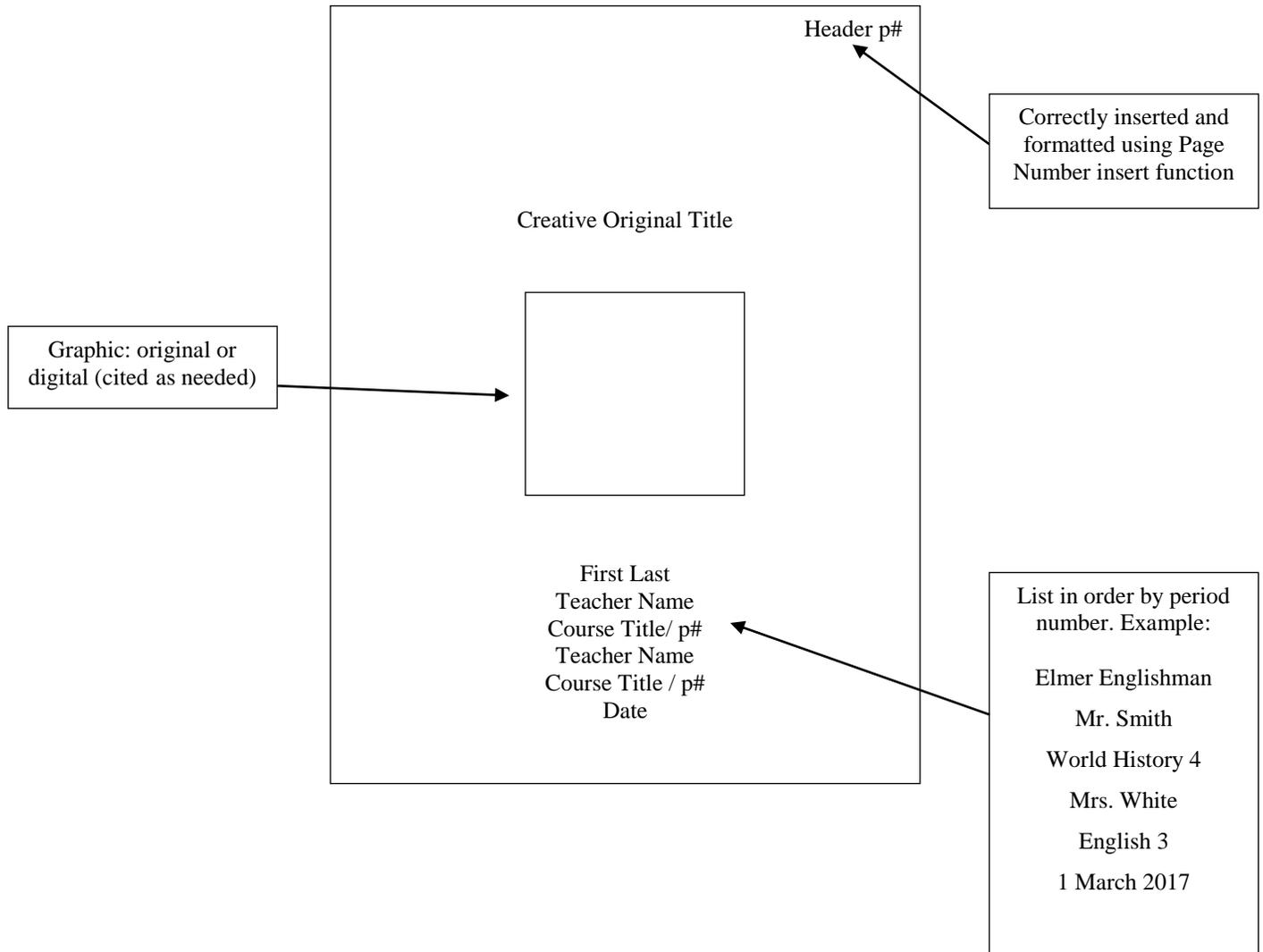
- **Elements of Plot:** The narrative must follow **Freytag's plot development model**. The character must face a problem/conflict that is clear and easy to understand and is resolved by the end of the narrative. You may choose your own theme and plot type: romance, mystery, adventure, comedy, family drama, etc. Make connections between the main problem in the narrative and the setting so the reader can see how the time in history affected the character.
- **Literary Devices:** The narrative must have **at least one (1) symbol and at least one (1) motif** that have clear significance in the plot development. These devices will also be identified on the final page of the narrative (along with the theme).
- **Dialogue:** The narrative must have at least **three (3) significant sections of properly formatted dialogue** that advances the plot.
- **Accuracy and Sufficiency of Historic Evidence:** Base your narrative on careful research so that readers get a true sense of the setting, customs, lifestyle, social strata, dress, and economy of the time period.

General requirements:

- Three-to five (3-5) pages typed, double-spaced, MLA Format
- Title page, MLA format (see example next page)
- A clever original title, centered
- Correctly formatted dialogue
- Revising and Editing: The final draft of the narrative should be free from grammatical errors (capitalization, punctuation, spelling, common usage errors, etc)
- "Fact vs Fiction Worksheet" located at the conclusion of the narrative (following the theme/literary devices page). It should be rich in factual content.
- Annotated Bibliography
- Works Cited Page
- Two (2) identical final copies with rubrics, *printed before class begins*, one for English and the other History. The final draft is worth 100 points.
- The grade on the final draft will be the average of your final score for history requirements for the narrative and the English requirements for the narrative. In other words, the requirements for both history and English are equally important.

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Include a title page like this as the first page of the final draft:



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HISTORY: REQUIRED PRODUCTS AND DUE DATES

1. NARROW YOUR TOPIC:

Due Date = _____ (5 Points)

Begin by deciding on the historical event you will narrate. It needs to connect, either directly or indirectly, to a point within the life of Napoleon, 1769-1821 (1750-1850). See the timeline provided.

STEP 1: My top event choices are

	Event (date and description)	Why did you select this event?
1		
2		
3		

STEP 2: Choose a real or fictional person to place at the center of your narrative. Ask the questions in the chart to help you make this decision.

For Real People	What individuals were actually involved (directly and indirectly) in this historical event? In what ways was each involved or influenced in (or by) that event?
For Fictional Characters	What other types of people might have participated in or witnessed the event?
For Fictional and Real	Of all these people, real and fictional, who would have the most interesting perspective in the story? Which one would I most enjoy writing about?

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN NAPOLEON'S LIFE:

- 1769 Napoleon is born in Ajaccio, Corsica
- 1779 Napoleon begins studies at Royal Military School in Brienne
- 1785 Napoleon graduates from Ecole Military in Paris, one of the best military schools in Europe. He graduates as a second lieutenant.
- 1792 Napoleon's regiment in Paris witnesses the storming of the Tuileries Palace and the dethroning of the French King, Louis XVI
- 1793 Napoleon's family is forced to leave Corsica
- 1793 Napoleon's brilliance at the Siege of Toulon is rewarded with a promotion to brigadier general
- 1794 Napoleon is imprisoned for 10 days under suspicion of being a Jacobin and supporter of Robespierre.
- 1795 The Directory assigns Napoleon the task of suppressing civil strife and rebellion against the Republic.
- 1795 Napoleon is made Chief of the Army of the Interior. Before this, Napoleon is not well known but the promotion makes him famous.
- 1796 Napoleon marries Josephine who comes from a wealthy family.
- 1796-1797 Napoleon's first command as general of French forces in Italy
- 1796 Napoleon wins the Battle of Lodi, Battle of Arcole, and Battle of Rivoli in Italy. Draws up the Treaty of Campo-Formio with Austria.
- 1797 Napoleon returns to Paris a hero from Italy.
- 1798 Napoleon's expedition to Egypt.
- 1798 Napoleon captures Alexandria, wins the Battle of the Pyramids, and seizes Cairo.
- 1798 Admiral Horatio Nelson of the British fleet destroys the French navy in the Battle of Aboukir.
- 1799 Receiving news of turmoil in France, Napoleon returns to Paris
- Nov 1799 Following a coup d'état of The Directory in Brumaire, Napoleon becomes First Consul of the new French Government.
- 1800 Napoleon moves into the Tuileries Palace in Paris.
- 1800 Napoleon leads his army across the Alps in the Second Italian Campaign
- 1800 Napoleon wins the Battle of Marengo against Austria.
- 1801 Napoleon makes peace with the Catholic Church by signing the Concordat.
- 1801 Napoleon escapes an assassination attempt.
- 1802 Treaty of Amiens signed with Great Britain.
- 1802 Napoleon restructures the French education system establishing Lycees.
- 1802 Napoleon becomes First Consul for life after a restructuring of the constitution.

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NAPOLEON TIMELINE

- **1803 Napoleon sells Louisiana territory to the United States.**
- **1803 England violates the Treaty of Amiens**
- **1804 Napoleon crowned French emperor at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris**
- **1804 Napoleon Code established**
- **1805 Napoleon is crowned king of Italy in the Milan Cathedral**
- **1805 Russian and Austrian forces defeated at Austerlitz**
- **1806 Continental System blockading Great Britain begins.**
- **1806 Napoleon names his brother Joseph king of Naples and appoints other family members to various other posts.**
- **1806 Prussia defeated at Jena-Auerstadt**
- **1807 Russia defeated at Friedland: Tsar Alexander I signs Treaty of Tilsit**
- **1807 Napoleon creates the Grand Duchy of Warsaw (Poland) to be overseen by France**
- **1808-1813 Peninsular War in Spain and Portugal under French marshal Joachim Murat.**
- **1808 Napoleon's brother Joseph is proclaimed king of Spain, Murat is named king of Naples.**
- **1808-1814 Revival of Austrian Opposition; ends in defeat at Battle of Wagram**
- **1809 Napoleon divorces Josephine because she failed to give him children.**
- **1810 Russia breaks with Napoleon**
- **1810 Napoleon marries 18 year-old Marie-Louise, the daughter of the Emperor of Austria, Ferdinand I.**
- **1811 Napoleon's first son is born. Napoleon II is called the King of Rome by Napoleon.**
- **1812 Napoleon's disastrous invasion of Russia**
- **1813 Napoleon defeated at Leipzig by combined Austro-Russian-Prussian forces**
- **1814 Napoleon forced to abdicate and exiled to Elba**
- **1815 Napoleon returns to France; The Hundred Days ends in defeat at Waterloo by Generals Wellington and Blucher**
- **1815 Napoleon forced to abdicate a second time and exiled to the island of St. Helena in the South Atlantic.**
- **1821 Napoleon dies in exile on the island of St. Helena.**
- **1840 The British allow his remains to be transferred and placed in the Invalides in Paris.**

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2. PRELIMINARY RESEARCH:

Due Date = _____ (5 Points)

Writers identify their audience so they can determine what kind of background knowledge they need to include in their historical fiction story. Once you identify your audience, brainstorm for and research background details about the historical event. Learn as much as you can about the historical event so you can be as realistic as possible in your story. Use the points in the chart to guide your research.

NEEDS	GUIDING QUESTIONS	POSSIBLE SOURCES (Primary and Secondary)
Historical Event	What exactly happened? Why, when and where did it happen? Were the surroundings urban or rural? What did the scene of the event look like? What details about the event are known?	
Current Event	What year is it? What was happening at home and abroad?	
Values	What did people of the time and culture believe in? What were they concerned about?	
Economics	What was it like to be a wealthy person? What was it like to be poor? What kinds of jobs did people have? What were economic conditions like?	
Daily Life / Culture / Traditions / Language	How did people dress? What did they eat? How were they entertained? What did they read? What did they celebrate? What idioms, phrases, sayings did people use?	
Imagine yourself living in that time and place.	How do you think you would have fit into that world? Would you have liked living then and there? Why or why not?	

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WORKS CITED PAGE:

Due Date = _____. (15 points)

- 6 “quality” sources of background information minimum. *You will likely need more sources than these minimums depending on your topic.* Use print or print-like sources for your information. (Books, databases, encyclopedias, but no personal or commercial websites.)
- Minimum of two relevant scholarly journals or *J-STOR*. (example PPLD: World History in Context – Journal Articles)
- Minimum of one primary source. (Eyewitness account from the time period.)
- Minimum of four sources must be from sources outside of the Napoleon unit.
- Proper MLA formatting.

TURN THIS RUBRIC PAGE IN WITH YOUR WORKS CITED PAGE

GRADING RUBRIC:

Quality of sources (one point per source, up to six): _____/6

MLA Source Citations (one point per proper citation, up to six): _____/6

MLA Page Format: _____/3

Total: _____/15

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2. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Due Date = _____. (20 points)

- Turn your Works Cited Page into an Annotated Bibliography.
- Each source citation will start on a new page.
- The annotation begins on a new line after the citation and is indented 1/2". The first line of each statement is also indented. *The Annotation is comprised of three parts:*
 - **Part 1:** Summary: Summarize the content of the source in 1-3 sentences. Indent the first line.
 - **Part 2:** Analysis: Interpret the usefulness of the source in 1-3 sentences. Indent the first line. How relevant is the information to your narrative? Any biases? How does it relate to other sources in the bibliography? Is it a secondary or primary source? Why?
 - **Part 3:** Direct Quotes: Direct quotes follow the summary and analysis paragraphs. Bullet point the list and include the in-text citation. Ex. (Smith 120)
- Minimum of 6 sources and **20 direct quotes total.**

TURN THIS RUBRIC PAGE IN WITH YOUR ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Grading Rubric:

Summary (one point for each source summary, up to six): _____/6

Analysis (one point for each source analysis, up to six): _____/6

Quotes (.25 point for each quote, up to 20): _____/5

Format (One point for each part's format): _____/3

Total: _____/20

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4. **FACTS VS. FICTIONAL WORKSHEET:** **Due Date** = _____. (with drafts)
- Double check that events in your historical narrative are accurate so the story will be believable.
 - Create a T-Chart to separate information between what is factual and what is fictional.
 - **Points to consider:** Which events and characters are factual? What aspects about the character and the character are factual? What is factual about the problem or conflict faced by the character(s)? What is true about the setting, customs, lifestyle, social strata, dress, and economy of the time period? *It should be rich in factual content.*
 - Must use and cite information from both scholarly articles (*J-STOR*, Pikes Peak “World History in Context”, etc) **and** primary source material on the fact side of the worksheet.
 - Cite each of your factual points. Ex. (Smith 120)
 - Attach your works cited page
 - Turn in with all drafts.
5. **FIRST DRAFT REVIEW & PEER EDITING:** **Due Date** = _____. (15 points)
- The first draft should closely match the “final” draft...but we will help make it better.
 - Two identical final copies with rubrics, *printed before class begins*, one for English and the other History.
 - “Fact vs Fiction Worksheet” located at the conclusion of the story.
 - Reviewers will identify both strengths and areas needing revision.
7. **FINAL DRAFT** : **Due Date** = _____. (50 points)
- Two identical final copies **with rubrics**, *printed before class begins*, one for English and the other History.
 - “Fact vs Fiction Worksheet” located at the conclusion of the story

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE WRITING ASSIGNMENT

NAME: _____

HISTORY TEACHER: _____

DUE: _____

REVIEWING STUDENT: _____

HISTORY CLASS	FIRST DRAFT GRADING CRITERIA	
Setting: Time and Place	<p>The plot must revolve around an actual event that is related to Napoleon. Uses vivid, descriptive words and sensory details to depict when and where the story takes place. Descriptions are accurate and reliable.</p> <p>Description of time (date/context): _____/2</p> <p>Description of place: _____/2</p> <p>Accuracy of Event: _____/6</p>	____ of 10
Elements of Characterization: Historic Characters	<p>Story possess several historic characters. Characterization of these historic characters should be true to what historians know of these historic figures. In other words, the historic characters behave in historically appropriate ways. Dialogue and descriptions develop the characters realistically.</p> <p>Inclusion of Historical Characters (at least 2): _____/6</p> <p>Accuracy of Characters' behavior: _____/4</p>	____ of 10
Elements of Plot: Historic Connection	<p>The story moves in a chronological order. There are clear connections between the main problem in the story and the setting to show how that time in history affected the characters. The problem or conflict is relevant, believable and logical to the event.</p> <p>Chronology (events happen in correct order): _____/4</p> <p>Connection of problem and time setting: _____/3</p> <p>Relevance to historical event: _____/3</p>	____ of 10
Elements of Style: Key Words	<p>Incorporates a minimum of 8 key words from that specific time in history so that the reader can draw conclusions about what life was really like.</p> <p>Key words (one point per word, up to eight): _____/8</p> <p>Natural incorporation: _____/2</p>	____ of 10
Quality of Research:	<p>Makes use of a minimum of 3 print-like sources; 2 journal articles, and 1 primary source of information (Minimum of 4 from outside of class.) Sources are relevant to the story. This is your fact/fiction sheet.</p> <p>Quality Sources (.5 point per source, up to six) _____/3</p> <p>Sources prove fact or fiction: _____/3</p> <p>Proper format and placement of fact/fiction: _____/4</p>	____ of 10

COMMENTS:

HISTORY TOTAL: ____ of 50 Points.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE WRITING ASSIGNMENT

NAME: _____

HISTORY TEACHER: _____

DUE: _____

ENGLISH TEACHER: _____

HISTORY CLASS	FINAL DRAFT GRADING CRITERIA	
Setting: Time and Place	<p>The plot must revolve around an actual event that is related to Napoleon. Uses vivid, descriptive words and sensory details to depict when and where the story takes place. Descriptions are accurate and reliable.</p> <p>Description of time (date/context): _____/2</p> <p>Description of place: _____/2</p> <p>Accuracy of Event: _____/6</p>	____ of 10
Elements of Characterization: Historic Characters	<p>Story possess several historic characters. Characterization of these historic characters should be true to what historians know of these historic figures. In other words, the historic characters behave in historically appropriate ways. Dialogue and descriptions develop the characters realistically.</p> <p>Inclusion of Historical Characters (at least 2): _____/6</p> <p>Accuracy of Characters' behavior: _____/4</p>	____ of 10
Elements of Plot: Historic Connection	<p>The story moves in a chronological order. There are clear connections between the main problem in the story and the setting to show how that time in history affected the characters. The problem or conflict is relevant, believable and logical to the event.</p> <p>Chronology (events happen in correct order): _____/4</p> <p>Connection of problem and time setting: _____/3</p> <p>Relevance to historical event: _____/3</p>	____ of 10
Elements of Style: Key Words	<p>Incorporates a minimum of 8 key words from that specific time in history so that the reader can draw conclusions about what life was really like.</p> <p>Key words (one point per word, up to eight): _____/8</p> <p>Natural incorporation: _____/2</p>	____ of 10
Quality of Research:	<p>Makes use of a minimum of 3 print-like sources; 2 journal articles, and 1 primary source of information (Minimum of 4 from outside of class.) Sources are relevant to the story. This is your fact/fiction sheet.</p> <p>Quality Sources (.5 point per source, up to six) _____/3</p> <p>Sources prove fact or fiction: _____/3</p> <p>Proper format and placement of fact/fiction: _____/4</p>	____ of 10

COMMENTS:

HISTORY TOTAL: ____ of 50 Points.