

# Research Paper

# What is a Research paper

- Research Paper = The investigation of a problem, by exploring and synthesizing primary sources

# Unacceptable topic submissions

- Biographies (ex: Plato, Socrates, Adolf Hitler)
- Broad topics (ex: The Holocaust, World War II, Scientific Revolution, The Enlightenment, Greek Philosophy)

# Topics contd.

- From Indiana University:  
[https://history.indiana.edu/student\\_portal/researchprocess/2\\_GettingStarted.html](https://history.indiana.edu/student_portal/researchprocess/2_GettingStarted.html)
- One student wanted to study racial ideologies. After talking to the professor, she decided to find cartoons from the Civil War that depicted black slaves and compared them to cartoons produced during the War of 1898. How different and similar were they? What kind of ideas did they convey about blacks and how were those ideas different from common ideas about blacks today?
- Another student from the same class was interested in gender. After being inspired by a reading that analyzed slave pictures in Brazil, she decided to study portraits of slave women and the gender and racial ideas put forward by the photographer.

- Exploring the impact of certain weapons on the outcome of WWI
- Why the Lienzo de Tlaxcala demonstrates the natives ability to reclaim agency within the Spanish system.
- How \_\_\_ pottery demonstrates the existence of \_\_\_ in Greek culture or society

# A good research paper

- Investigates a problem/question
- Gets to the point quickly and concisely
- Uses evidence from primary and secondary sources to support assertions/claims made in the paper
- Refrains from basing an argument on opinions
  - Ex: The Roman Empire was the greatest empire
    - How can you prove “great”
- Does NOT simply restate facts, timeline, or events
- Acknowledges the counter argument

# What is a primary and secondary source

- A primary source is a document, artifact, etc from the time period you are writing about

# Where to find online sources

- Alabama Virtual Library
- EBSCO Search Engine

# Example of sources

- Acceptable:
  - A book such as a bibliography, a history text (monograph), or a collection of historical essays.
  - An article found online or in a book
    - Online sources must be found through search engines accessed via Alabama Virtual Library, EBESCO, etc.

# Check list for an acceptable source

- Is it a book or an article?
- If it is an article – which university publisher or scholarly journal is it associated with?
- Or is the author associated with a university?
  - *Ex) Dr. John Smith, University of Colorado*
- What is the year of publication? Books or articles since the 1980s are preferable.
- Does the article or book show up on [worldcat.org](http://worldcat.org)?

# Off-limit sources

- Textbooks
- Encyclopedias
- Dictionaries
- Class websites
- Lectures/lecture notes
- Wikipedia
- Any books under a 12<sup>th</sup> grade reading level
- Websites that are not a journal or scholarly article

# Thesis Statement

- *A good thesis statement is a summary of your entire argument.*
- *Bad Thesis:* The native Mexicans saw themselves as equals to the Spanish Conquistadores.
- *Good Thesis:* The Tlaxcalans demonstrated in the *Lienzo de Tlaxcala*, that they were equal partners with the Conquistadores in the Spanish Conquest.
- *A REALLY GOOD Thesis:* By appropriating European heraldry, language, and artistic styles, the Tlaxcalans demonstrated in the *Lienzo de Tlaxcala* that they were equal partners in the Spanish Conquest, not among the conquered.

# Chicago Manual of Style

- We will use CMS Style 1: Notes and Bibliography
- We do NOT use CMS Style 2: Author-Date

Website for quick citation:

[http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

# Chicago Manual of Style

In-Paper Footnotes:

*First time you cite a book:*

1. Anthony Pagden, *The Fall of Natural Man: The American Indian and the Origins of Comparative Ethnology*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982), 25

*Second time you cite a book:*

2. Pagden, 25

*If you are using two books by the same author(s):*

2. Pagden, *The Fall of Natural Man*, 25

# Chicago Manual of Style

## *Bibliography (Author with Multiple Books)*

Pagden, Anthony. *The Fall of Natural Man: The American Indian and the Origins of Comparative Ethnology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Uncertainties of Empire: Essays in Iberian and Ibero-American Intellectual History*. Vermont: Variorum, 1994.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Lords of all the World: Ideologies of Empire in Spain, Britain and France c.1500-c.1800*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1995.

# Chicago Manual of Style

## In-Paper Footnotes

### *Citing an article:*

15. John S. Richardson, “Imperium Romanum: Empire and the Language of Power,” *The Journal of Roman Studies* 81 (1991), 5

### *Bibliography:*

Richardson, John S. “Imperium Romanum: Empire and the Language of Power.” *The Journal of Roman Studies* 81 (1991): 1-9.

# Plagiarism

- Examples of Plagiarism:
  - When you either do not cite, or you barely change the wording.
    - Elizabeth I, the last of the Tudor Monarchs died in 1603 and the thrones of England and Ireland passed to her cousin, James Stuart. (This is an example of not citing)
    - Elizabeth I, the last Tudor monarch, died in 1603. The thrones of England and Ireland then passed to her cousin, James Stuart. (This is way to close to the original)
- Correct:

“Elizabeth I, the last of the Tudor monarchs, died in 1603 and the thrones of England and Ireland passed to her cousin, James Stuart.” 1

  1. Mark Stoye, “Overview: Civil War and Revolution 1603-1714,” Accessed February 4, 2014, [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil\\_war\\_revolution/overview\\_civil\\_war\\_revolution\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil_war_revolution/overview_civil_war_revolution_01.shtml)

(BTW – that 1 at the end of the sentence should be small and up in the air, not just typed. PowerPoint won’t let me do it here. Look at the sample paper for reference.)
- If you can find it, particularly on the internet, then I can find it.