

Paper I

Purpose of the Assignment:

This assignment is intended to help you:

1. Develop a deeper understanding of some of the most important issues in the history of the Pacific Northwest.
2. Develop and strengthen skills in critical thinking, analysis, and effective writing,

These knowledge and skills are essential to your success in this course but also in college more widely and in your professional life after school.

Task:

Write a 3-4 page essay (double-spaced, 12 point standard font) that addresses **ONE** of the following prompts:

1. Analyze and discuss the changes in the power relationship between Native Americans and whites in the Pacific Northwest in the period from the late 1700s to the late 1800s. Your essay should examine the major forces that influenced changing power relations between native people and whites and evaluate those forces' impacts. **You MUST use evidence from *Mourning Dove* AND at least ONE other PRIMARY source AND ONE SECONDARY source assigned for class in addressing this prompt.**
OR
2. Discuss how attitudes toward and uses of the Northwest's natural resources changed (or did not change) between the arrival of Europeans in the region in the late 1700s and the early 1900s. What factors shaped these attitudes and uses of the region's natural resources? **You MUST use evidence from *The Organic Machine* AND at least TWO PRIMARY sources assigned for class in addressing this prompt.**
OR
3. Discuss the goals of various residents of, and visitors to, the Northwest between the late 1700s and the early 1900s about the kind of society they sought to create in the region and their efforts to build these societies. What motivated their ideas about the region? Explain their success or failure in bringing their ideas to fruition. **You MUST use evidence from EITHER *The Organic Machine* OR *Mourning Dove* AND at least ONE PRIMARY source AND ONE SECONDARY source assigned for class in addressing this prompt.**

This assignment is worth 200 points of your overall grade for the class.

Remember, I am here to help you with this paper. You can send me a thesis statement, introductory paragraph, outline, or a rough draft of your paper and I will provide you with feedback on it. Feel free to ask questions about the assignment via e-mail or visit me during office hours. Another useful resource is the Writing Lab in the college's Academic Success Center – see <http://bellevuecollege.edu/asc/writing/>

This assignment is due at the start of class on Friday, February 7. Late papers will be penalized for each day they are late.

You **DO NOT** need to do research outside of class for the paper. I expect college-level work on this

assignment. Therefore, your paper should:

- Have a thesis or argument that addresses the paper topic and drives your analysis. Your thesis should be supported throughout the paper by the effective use of evidence. Each paragraph should be adding to the overall argument you are making in your paper. For details of how to construct a thesis see <http://www.bowdoin.edu/writing-guides/thesis.htm>
- Use evidence that meets the minimum requirements specified in the prompt.
- Have an introduction, where you define your thesis, and a logical organization that flows from the thesis.
- Have a conclusion where you restate your thesis and explain its significance.
- Have effective transitions between paragraphs that add to the overall argument in your paper.
- Not use any sources other than those we have read for class without first obtaining my permission.
- Be a product of your own work only, written specifically for this class. You may not submit assignments produced for other classes for this course.
- Provide citations for all ideas and evidence that are not your own using a consistent and clear citation format. Remember, failure to cite the source of your information or ideas constitutes plagiarism. **If you have questions about when or if you need to provide citations, please ask!**
- Be 3-4 pages long (approximately 1100 – 1200 words), **NOT** including citations or cover page, typed double-spaced with 12 point Times Roman font and standard margins.
- Include some direct quotations from the readings as evidence to support your analysis. However, quotes should be used sparingly and ideally only from primary sources. Quotes can never stand alone – you **MUST** provide an introduction/transition and context for quotations. Avoid long "block" quotes, i.e. quotes that are more than 3 lines long.
- Be well-written, grammatically correct, without typos or spelling mistakes. The effectiveness and clarity of your writing will be a significant factor in the grades you get for papers.

Some final points about this assignment:

- Good resources for writing papers include, Patrick Rael, *Reading, Writing, and Researching for History: A Guide for College Students* (Brunswick, ME: Bowdoin College, 2004) available at <http://www.bowdoin.edu/writing-guides/> and Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.
- You must keep a copy of all papers you submit for the class.
- If you disagree with my assessment of your work, you should discuss this with me. You must describe in writing why you disagree with my assessment. Please supply the original paper or exam with my comments and a description of why you feel the grade you received was unfair. After reevaluating your work I may decide to increase, decrease or leave your grade unchanged.

These are the criteria I use in evaluating papers for the class:

- **Thesis** – does the paper have a strong and clear argument or thesis in response to the prompt? Do you effectively carry your analysis throughout the paper?
- **Evidence** – is the thesis supported by the effective use of evidence? Is that evidence cited clearly and effectively? Do you meet the evidence requirements as specified in the prompt you chose to write about?
- **Historical context and themes** – do you effectively explain the historical context behind the issues you are examining and link those issues to larger historical themes?
- **Organization** – does your paper have a clear and consistent organization?
- **Introduction & conclusion** – does your introduction grab the reader's attention and make

them want to read more? Does it provide a “roadmap” for where the paper is going? Does the conclusion sum up your paper’s analysis and make a final case to convince the reader of the validity of that analysis?

- **Transitions** – does the paper flow smoothly, with each paragraph leading smoothly to the next? Are there clear topic sentences (or mini theses) for each paragraph?
- **Writing quality** – is the paper’s prose clear and effective? Does it have grammatical errors? Spelling mistakes? Typos?
- **Additional comments** – Are there other ways that the paper could be improved?