American History Research Paper Topics

- How did Watergate affect the United States government?
- How was the New Deal an effective answer to the Great Depression?
- Why did Prohibition fail?
- How has science and technology changed society? (1900-1950)
- How has science and technology changed society? (1950-Present)
- Why was it necessary to drop the atomic bomb on Japan to end World War II?
- How was the Spanish-American war really caused by “yellow journalism”?
- How could the U.S. have avoided the Great Depression?
- How could the U.S. have won the Vietnam War?
- How could the U.S. have avoided the Cold War?
- Which president had a greater impact on American government and society: Theodore Roosevelt or John F. Kennedy? (FDR, Reagan, Truman, etc.)
- Why is the Cuban Missile Crisis the most significant event in the Kennedy presidency?
- Why were the 1920's considered to be the emergence of modern America?
- What factors allowed America to enjoy an industrial boom from 1880-1910?
- How did the industrial boom (1880-1910) transform America politically and economically?
- Why was imperialism a proper and legitimate policy for the U.S. to follow at the turn of the century?
- Why did the U.S. enter World War I?
- What effect did Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X have on the Civil Rights Movement?
- What was the significance of the Harlem Renaissance?
- How did the events of Pearl Harbor change diplomacy?
- What was the significance of the D-Day invasion?
- How did technological advances in weapons change the manner in which war was fought between the World War I and World War II?
- Which had a greater impact on American society: World War II or the Vietnam War?
- How were the Progressives successful in making government more responsive to the will of the people?
- Why was the acquisition of the Panama Canal Zone an act of justifiable imperialism?
- To what extent did the need for self-defense give the US the right to interfere in the affairs of Latin America? (Roosevelt Corollary, “Dollar Diplomacy,” “Watchful Waiting”)
- Should a democratic government tolerate dissent during times of war and other crises? (Schenck v. United States, Abrams v. United States)
- Prove how the decade of the 1920s was either a decade of innovation or conservatism.
- Explain whether or not the United States should limit immigration.
- How could the United States have prevented the outbreak of World War II? OR How did United States foreign policy during the 1930s help promote World War II?
- Explain whether the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II was justified or an unfortunate setback for democracy.
- How were the 1950s a time of great peace, progress, and prosperity for Americans?
- Did the war in Vietnam bring a domestic revolution to the United States?
- Did the “Great Society” programs fulfill their promises?
- Explain whether civil disobedience is the most effective means of achieving racial equality.
- To what extent did the Warren Supreme Court expand or undermine the concept of civil liberties?
- Is secrecy more important than the public’s right to know in implementing foreign policy? (Bay of Pigs invasion, 1961; clandestine CIA operations; Pentagon Papers court case, 1971; Iran-Contra affair; invasion of Panama, 1989; etc.)
- To what extent did the policies of the Reagan administration strengthen or weaken the United States?
- Explain whether peace and stability in the Middle East are vital to the United States’ economy and national security.
- To what extent is it the responsibility of the United States today to be the world’s “policeman?”

Any other 20th century (1887-Present) topic you would like to write about. It must be in the form of a question AND it must be approved by me.

Once you choose the topic, you cannot change it!