



Historical Fiction Project 2013

Your reading will inspire your Writing!

Step One: Select the specific time period and historical event you'd like to focus on.

Your project must be based on the culture and country your read about in your historical fiction outside reading book, but you have the flexibility to change the time period to earlier or later than the events reflected in your novel. One caveat: you cannot focus on the exact, same historical event or events that were covered in your novel.



Step Two: Think of who the character is you would like to give voice to.

The character can be created from scratch, or you can make the character a relative or descendant of your protagonist. This will be much easier to do once you decide on the specific time period and event you'd like to focus on. This character can have direct interaction with the protagonist of the novel you read, or may not have any interaction at all. Again, this decision is completely up to you and will be dictated by the time period you decide to focus on.

Step Three: In-depth research.

I will guide you in this step, but the ultimate work will be yours as you explore specific details about the time period and decide how you plan to portray the setting. Taking the historical event you selected in step 1, you will gather relevant information that will help you adequately portray the



time. Important details include, but are not exclusive to: form of government, transportation, cooking, house and furniture design, household necessities, cost of living, clothing, hairstyles, occupations and salaries, entertainment, social rules and customs, contemporary slang, and anything else you think would help the reader better understand the setting.

Step four: Harvard Outline

As I have established in the past, I will not discuss any ideas you have unless a formal Harvard outline has been drawn up. Since this is a creative story, decide how you want to begin the tale and start there. Will the reader start in the middle of a flashback? If so, your "I." will be labelled *Flashback*. Do you prefer beginning in the midst of a major conflict? If so, begin there. Other categories include: setting, characters, conflict, and resolution.



"Writing historical fiction gives the writer a sense of real, live people living in history."--Kathleen Kudlinski

Step Five:

Write your rough draft. Take the time to structure your story and have it unfold in the manner that you'd like. Do you want the story to begin in the midst of your conflict? Do you want it to begin in a flashback? Do you want it to emphasize the character you have created? The rough draft should include internal citations that help the reader understand the historical context and conflict. Any research that was garnered should be included with internal citation. That being said, there must be a works cited page, which can be compiled through easybib.com or bibme.com. You must have a minimum of 3 sources from the internet, journals, essays, articles or books. No Wikipedia! Be sure your source material is reputable and well-established. No blogs! Then, move on to the final draft.

Your completed historical fiction piece should be 4-5 pages long and have an interesting and engaging title.

Below, please find a 23 step process that will be helpful to you as you write the paper. Be sure to check to see you have completed all the steps before you turn your paper in!

1. **Decide whether you will pre or post-date the text. Which character?**
2. **Begin surfing the web. Find a historical event that will serve as your centerpiece.**
3. **Brainstorm by using a mind web.**
4. **Answer the question, “How will my character be specifically affected by the period of time I am writing about?”**
5. **More research! Begin generating a works cited page.**
6. **Review your mind web**
7. **Generate a Harvard outline from your “tweaked” brainstorming mind web.**
8. **Utilize the research gathered and incorporate it into your outline.**
9. **Write the rough draft of your story!**
10. **Revisit your Harvard outline to be sure that it reflects your rough draft accurately.**
11. **Revise your rough draft. Check for imagery. Add any images that help “bring the reader there.”**
12. **Revise your rough draft.**
13. **Work on adding suspense to make the conflict more intense.**
14. **Revise your rough draft for grammatical errors, especially comma errors, run-ons and word choice.**
15. **Revise your rough draft for internal citations. Are they written in the proper format? Are they included for every piece of research you used?**
16. **Revisit your research and check for accuracy. Do you do justice for the time? Is the setting adequately depicted?**
17. **Revise your rough draft.**
18. **Is the title creative and interesting?**
19. **Be sure your essay has a heading—tell me whether the story pre or post dates the text.**
20. **Revise your draft for coherence. Does each paragraph contribute to the plot? Is each free of tangents?**
21. **Revise your draft for unity. Do all of the paragraphs belong in the order they are presented? Can any of the paragraphs be broken into smaller pieces? Eliminated?**
22. **Read the entire thing out loud to yourself. How does it sound? Does it make you proud? Print the final copy, the finalized Harvard outline, and the works cited page and staple it together.**
23. **UPLOAD TO TURN IT IN!!! NO LATE ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED YAY! YOU ARE DONE!**