

Instructions Triad Essays

A triad represents a list of three items (people, places, ideas, abstract concepts) that I propose are linked in a fundamental way in the context of the history we are studying. The task at hand, then, is to compose a short essay that explains the historical relationship among the three items in question. The idea is to focus above all on the *connections*, rather than on addressing each item in isolation from the others. In each case, the best answer will state in the essay's first sentence the relationship involved; the rest of the essay will then elaborate on that relationship, *using specific evidence and detail from the materials at your disposal* – primarily the readings for the course. Though the three concepts can usually be put together in a variety of ways, please make sure that you do not ignore important evidence in assembling your essay. Potential triads for your consideration will be posted at least a week prior to the essay's due date. What follows below are some more specific guidelines and requirements for this exercise.

The first sentence of the essay – this is in effect the thesis or argument of the paper – **MUST** include the three items of the triad. Those three items should be highlighted **in bold**, so that it is immediately apparent which triad you are addressing. Each essay must also have a proper title. It goes without saying that all essays should be meticulously proofread.

In formal terms, each triad essay should be about one page in length. Anything shorter than around $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page or longer than $1\frac{1}{2}$ pages will be considered deficient and will be mercilessly trashed accordingly. Any paper shorter than $\frac{1}{2}$ page or longer than $1\frac{3}{4}$ pages will be returned to the author as inadequate. Anything resubmitted after such return will be considered late by the original calendar for submission. This means that if your paper is too long or too short, you may not have the opportunity to receive credit for it **AT ALL**. I plan to be utterly ruthless on this score, so please be warned. The length designations here assume a paper that features double-space, with 12-point font, and margins of $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Any deviations from these standards will be dealt with mercilessly.

Each essay must be typed or computer printed. Your name should appear on the essay (the date and the course number are irrelevant and should not be included). Under your name, please include your e-mail address. The three items of the triad should appear in the first sentence, and each of them should be **in bold**). The essay may consist of as little as one paragraph, but should probably not have more than three. References to required reading for the course should take the simplest form: (Yarmolinsky, 63). You need not include “p.” or “pg.” – just the page number. You should include the title only if you have two or more works by the same author, which is unlikely to be the case. If you use a source not from the required reading, then you need to cite that in full, preferably in a footnote.

I ask that students submit their essays electronically. In order to do so, there are *two fundamental requirements*: 1) the name of the document **MUST** be your last name (you can add anything you wish after that, but the name of the document **MUST** begin with your last name); 2) your e-mail address must be included under your name. Any paper that does not meet these two requirements will be sent back to the author with the remark “NO GOOD.” Anything submitted thereafter will be considered late by the original schedule for submission. I prefer but do not require that papers be saved in .doc format rather than .docx.