

African American History
News Coverage Project
Final Copy DUE: Sunday, November 29 by 11:55 pm
Uploaded to the LMS under “Coursework”

Students will identify an event impacting black Americans after the end of Reconstruction. They will then cover that event in the news beginning after 1877 and ending in contemporary times. For example, your event could be black Americans protesting police brutality. You would then draft fictional news coverage of the event as it was 1890, then 1920, 1960, and 1980, for example. Students will then explain the historical context of their coverage and how it changed (or did not) throughout time. This assignment is meant to be creative and develop students’ analytical, research, and communication skills.

This project is worth 250 total points and 20% of your total final grade.

Project Components:

- Topic Due: Friday, October 16 by 5:00 pm
- Two News Coverage Pieces Due: Friday, October 30 by 5:00 pm
- Next Two News Coverage Pieces Due: Friday, November 13 by 5:00 pm
- Final Fictional News Coverage Project Due: Sunday, November 29 by 11:55 pm

Assignment Specifications:

- Double-spaced
- 12 pt. font size
- Georgia font style
- 1-inch margins all around
- At the top of the document include the following information, single-spaced
 - Insert Your Name
 - HIS 310
 - Archives Project: Insert Component
 - Due Date of Component

Topic: You will write a no more than one-page summary of your fictional event. Your summary needs to include a brief explanation of the fictional event that you created: who was involved, what happened, what was the impact, etc. Remember, this is an African American history class; therefore, your event must fall within the United States, be about Black Americans, and be post-Reconstruction (after 1877). You do not need to create a bibliography for this assignment. Your information must be drawn from course lecture notes. Due October 16 uploaded to LMS by 5:00 pm

Two News Pieces: You will create two fictional news articles covering your fictional event from 1877-1945. Your event (a case of police brutality against Sam Smith, for example) will stay the same, but the time period you are writing in will change in each piece. For example, you may create a newspaper article about Smith’s case in 1890, and now newspaper coverage of the same

event as if it now happened in 1920. While the idea of the event will stay the same in each piece, the historical context will change. Furthermore, how you cover the event will change based on the time period and who is covering it (a white news outlet v. a black new outlet, for example).

The news “format” is up to you and you can combine a variety of types, including but not limited to newspaper coverage, radio coverage, television, etc. As you move through time you could even update the news format to reflect changing news formats.

The news articles should be written to represent a perspective/slant in their coverage of the event, and you should strive for diversity in that coverage over the two news pieces. Cover the event from a newspaper entirely run by white southerners or a BET anchor, for example.

It should be clear hear as well how Americans used ideas about race to understand the event you created. Show how people saw their society through a racialized (but also intersectional) lens.

Each news piece should be no more than 2 pages long. Due October 30 uploaded to LMS by 5:00 pm

Next Two News Pieces: You will create two more fictional news articles covering your fictional event from 1846-present day. Your event (a case of police brutality against Sam Smith, for example) will still stay the same, but the time period you are writing in will continue to change in each piece. For example, you may create a radio series about Smith’s case in 1960, and now newspaper coverage of the same event as if it now happened in 1990. While the idea of the event will stay the same in each piece, the historical context will continue to change. Furthermore, how you cover the event will also still change based on the time period and who is covering it (a white news outlet v. a black new outlet, for example).

The news “format” is still up to you and you can combine a variety of types, including but not limited to newspaper coverage, radio coverage, television, etc. As you move through time you could even update the news format to reflect changing news formats.

The news articles should be written to represent a perspective/slant in their coverage of the event, and you should strive for diversity in that coverage over the next two news pieces as well.

It should be clear hear as well how Americans used ideas about race to understand the event you created. Show how people saw their society through a racialized (but also intersectional) lens.

Each news piece should be no more than 2 pages long. Due November 13 uploaded to LMS by 5:00 pm

Final Project: You will revise all of the above components based on my feedback and your further research and submit them alongside an explanatory essay. Merge all of these components into one file and upload it the course LMS under the “Coursework” page. Due November 29 uploaded to LMS by 11:55 pm

Explanatory Essay: You will write a two-three page essay explaining how your news articles reflect different group perspectives of the event, the historical context of the time period they were written in, when and where you made changes to the coverage and why, and what it tells us about African American identity in US history. Be sure to address how race was constructed and redefined. Highlight the choices you made in creating your archive to illustrate these points.

This is the version of your project that you will receive a grade on. It is worth 250 points and 20% of your final grade. Therefore, I highly suggest you take the time to edit and revise throughout the quarter. Editing and revising after I issue you your feedback is the most effective way to implement my comments because the information will be fresh but it will also help you stay on top of the project (rather than trying to do all revisions right before it is due on top of writing the explanatory essay). I am always available to look over drafts and help you revise as you go along.

Upload your final project with all components to the LMS under the “Coursework” page by Sunday, November 29 at 11:55 pm.