**How to Write Like an Historian**

**(created by Kristie Schmidt rev 10/14)**

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| **History Research Paper** | **English Literary or Research Paper** |
| **Gather many resources—**some for background knowledge, others for support or challenge of a thesis | **Use the actual work in addition to literary criticism** |
| **Use basic writing conventions** (spelling, punctuation, varied and complete sentence construction, paragraphing) | **same** |
| **Use past tense verbs** | **Use present tense verbs** |
| **Include Introduction and Conclusion** ( a hook or lead, background or contextual information, arguable thesis) | **same** |
| **Weigh evidence and sources against each other using MLA format** (embed quotations, integrate quotes, indicate parentheticals) | **Weigh the work, the criticism and your interpretation against each other** (embed quotations, integrate quotes, indicate parentheticals) |
| **Be precise.** What people? Landless peasants? Urban men? Wealthy lawyers? Which government? When? How? Who exactly needed freedom, and what did they mean by freedom?  | **same** |
| **Be accurate with chronology** (timelines) | **Be accurate within chronology of the plot** |
| **Use primary, secondary and scholarly sources to support or refute each other:** letters, diaries, memoirs, speeches, newspaper articles, and government documents of all kinds; books, database articles. | **Use the original text and other critical analyses** |
| **Analyze evidence to prove thesis/hypothesis**Answer How and Why | **same** |
| **Use sequencing, cause/effect, compare/contrast for your analysis** (use signal verbs and transition words) | **same** |