**11 University American History Research Paper**

**The American Civil War**

**Assignment Overview**

You will be required to write a five part essay to prove one of the theses below. The essay should be 1000 – 1500 words in length. Your paper will have three arguments with at least two argumentative points per argument. Each argumentative point will comprise one paragraph and will require a minimum of two specific pieces of evidence as proof.

**Sources**

You will be required to conduct research for this essay which includes print, database and web resources. Your paper must include a properly formatted bibliography that has a minimum of **6 different sources** that you have used, both to shape your understanding and more directly as evidence cited in your paper. ***At least two of these sources must be primary sources.*** You will be required to acknowledge the sources of your evidence using **proper footnotes** that follow the Chicago Style. A **properly formatted bibliography,** that includes all sources you used, is also required. The format for your bibliography must also follow the Chicago Style

**Process**

This paper will be completed in stages.

**Stage One: Essay Proposal with Annotated bibliography**

Due Date: Friday, May 20

**Stage Two: Rough Draft and Peer Editing**

Due Date: Friday, June 3

**Stage Three: Good Copy**

Due Date: Wednesday, June 8th

**In class work periods: May 13th, 17th, 19th, 20th, 27th, 31st**

**Thesis Options**

1. While the issue of slavery ultimately pushed the two sides to battle in 1861, the sectional divisions between the North and South, that had existed since the ratification of the Constitution, made the conflict inevitable.
2. Technological advances had a huge impact on the Civil War, both in its causation and execution.
3. The Civil War occurred because compromise between the tensions of nationalist expansion and sectionalism could no longer be achieved.

**Stage One: Essay Proposal Due: Friday, May 20th**

**For this proposal you must do three things**

1. Determine the thesis you will prove
2. Provide a thumbnail outline that indicates your three arguments and the two points you will make in each argument. Be sure to include properly formatted topic sentences in this outline
3. Provide a properly formatted, Annotated Bibliography of four sources that you will use as evidence to prove those arguments. In your annotation, you need to outline how/why the source will be useful in proving a particular point in one of your arguments. Be sure to specifically indicate how the source will be useful to you. If your source is taken from the Web and it is not obviously credible, you must also provide an annotation that verifies the credibility of the source.

*Your Bibliography must include at least one primary source.*

**Assessment**

**/10 Marks** Communication: Bibliography is properly formatted

**/10 Marks** Application: Annotations demonstrate a logical understanding of how sources will be used

**/10 Marks** Knowledge: a comprehensive understanding of the topic is demonstrated