

**ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO WRITING FOR THE HISTORY CLASSROOM**  
**By Katherine Pickering Antonova**  
**Forthcoming from Oxford University Press, 2018**

**1 ORIENTATION**

- 1.1 How to Use This Book
- 1.2 How to Interpret Instructions
- 1.3 What's Different about College History

**2 WHAT IS ACADEMIC WRITING?**

- 2.1 The Virtues of Academic Writing
- 2.2 Academic Structure
- 2.3 Academic Style
- 2.4 The Writing Process
- 2.5 The Vices of Academic Writing
- 2.6 What Academic Writing Is Not
- 2.7 Who Is the Academic Reader?
- 2.8 Why Practice Academic Writing?

**3 WHAT IS HISTORY?**

- 3.1 Questions Historians Ask
- 3.2 How Historians Work
- 3.3 Why Everyone Should Take a History Class
- 3.4 Why Major in History?
- 3.5 What Comes after the History Degree?

**4 THE SHORT-ANSWER IDENTIFICATION ESSAY**

- 4.1 What's Your Goal?
- 4.2 Studying Textbooks and Lecture Notes
- 4.3 Brainstorming Lists
- 4.4 Distilling: Choosing the Right Details
- 4.5 Explaining Significance
- 4.6 Revising: Packing Your Sentences
- 4.7 Revising: Cutting the Crap
- 4.8 Revising: Grading Yourself
- 4.9 Proofreading: Handwriting, Spelling, and Grammar
- 4.10 Exam-Taking Strategy

**5 THE RESPONSE PAPER**

- 5.1 What's Your Goal?
- 5.2 Reading Academic History (Secondary Sources)
- 5.3 Reading: Annotating Your Text
- 5.4 Afternotes for a Secondary Source
- 5.5 Distilling an Argument
- 5.6 Responding to a Reading
- 5.7 Revising: Structure and Weight
- 5.8 Revising: Showing, Not Telling
- 5.9 Revising: Handling Quotes and Paraphrases

- 5.10 Revising: Word Choice
  - 5.10.1 Types of Publications
  - 5.10.2 Government Terms
  - 5.10.3 Social Categories
  - 5.10.4 Time
  - 5.10.5 Geography
  - 5.10.6 Historic / Historical
  - 5.10.7 Verbs
  - 5.10.8 Hedges and Qualifiers
  - 5.10.9 Banned Words
- 5.11 Revising: Cutting More Crap
- 5.12 Revising: Testing Your Draft
- 5.13 Proofreading: Grammar and Usage Errors

## 6 THE SHORT ANALYTICAL ESSAY

- 6.1 What's Your Goal?
- 6.2 Understanding the Prompt
- 6.3 Studying for Analytical Essays
- 6.4 Brainstorming: Evidence
- 6.5 Brainstorming: Claims
- 6.6 Brainstorming: Multiple Causes
- 6.7 Brainstorming: Addressing Counter-Arguments
- 6.8 Drafting: Argument-Based Outlining
- 6.9 Revising: Logic
- 6.10 Revising: Structure
- 6.11 Revising: Showing Your Work
- 6.12 Revising: Identifying Style Problems
- 6.13 Revising: Transitions
- 6.14 Proofreading: Past Tense Verbs

## 7 IMAGINATIVE PROJECTS

- 7.1 What's Your Goal?
- 7.2 Types of Imaginative Projects
- 7.3 Reading for Imaginative Projects
- 7.4 Brainstorming: What to Know or Invent
- 7.5 Brainstorming: Taking a Stand
- 7.6 Drafting: Playing with Ideas
- 7.7 Revising: Substance
- 7.8 Revising: Language and Style
- 7.9 Revising: Special Formatting
- 7.10 Citing and Attributing Sources

## 8 THE HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY

- 8.1 What's Your Goal?
- 8.2 Reading Conversations
- 8.3 Drafting: Conversations
- 8.4 Drafting: Book Reviews
- 8.5 Evaluating Contributions

- 8.5.1 Genres
- 8.5.2 Methods
- 8.5.3 Terms of criticism
- 8.6 Finding Your Contribution
- 8.7 Titles
- 8.8 Revision: Structure
- 8.9 Revising: Subject and Verb Tests
- 8.10 Revising: Using Feedback
- 8.11 Revising: Grading Yourself
- 8.12 Proofreading: Checklist

## 9 PRIMARY SOURCE INTERPRETATION

- 9.1 What's Your Goal?
- 9.2 What Is a Primary Source?
- 9.3 How Historians Use Primary Sources
- 9.4 Text: Sourcing Documents
- 9.5 Text: Document Types
- 9.6 Reading Primary Sources
- 9.7 Afternotes for a Primary Source
- 9.8 Finding Context
- 9.9 Finding Subtext
- 9.10 Brainstorming: Context and Subtext
- 9.11 Drafting: Analyzing Subtext
- 9.12 Drafting: Significance
- 9.13 Revising: Claims
- 9.14 Revising: Structure
- 9.15 Revising: Quoting Primary Sources
- 9.16 Revising: Learning from Models
- 9.17 Revising: Grading Yourself
- 9.18 Proofreading

## 10 HISTORICAL RESEARCH

- 10.1 What's Your Goal?
- 10.2 Using Your Library
- 10.3 Managing Information
- 10.4 Secondary Source Types
- 10.5 Tertiary Source Types
- 10.6 Internet Sources
- 10.7 Judging Relevance
- 10.8 Judging Quality
- 10.9 Identifying Conversations & Managing Scope
- 10.10 Citing Sources
  - 10.10.1 Plagiarism
  - 10.10.2 Citation styles
  - 10.10.3 Notes versus bibliography
  - 10.10.4 Print versus online sources
  - 10.10.5 Historiographical and explanatory footnotes
- 10.11 Annotating a Bibliography

## 11 THE RESEARCH ESSAY

- 11.1 What's Your Goal?
- 11.2 Topics and Research Questions
- 11.3 Writing Process
- 11.4 Argument Types
- 11.5 Brainstorming Argument
- 11.6 Research Proposals
- 11.7 Drafting: Incorporating Sources
- 11.8 Drafting: Joining the Conversation
- 11.9 Revising: Ideas
- 11.10 Revising: Expressing Uncertainty and Limits
- 11.11 Revising: Structure
- 11.12 Revising: Getting Feedback
- 11.13 Revising: Style and Clarity
- 11.14 Revising: Grading Yourself
- 11.15 Proofreading and Formatting
- 11.16 Writing an Abstract

### Appendix 1: Quick Reference

- A1.1 Sentences
- A1.2 Parts of Speech
- A1.3 Punctuation
- A1.4 Capitalization
- A1.5 Quote Formatting
- A1.6 Title Formatting
- A1.7 Conventions
- A1.8 Common Spelling Errors
- A1.9 Chicago Citation Reminders
- A1.10 Proofreader's Marks

### Appendix 2: Other Assignments and Professional Writing

- A2.1 Ungraded / Informal Writing
- A2.2 Reports and Discussion Leading
- A2.3 Presentations
- A2.4 Lesson Plans
- A2.5 Course Evaluations
- A2.6 Digital, Visual, and Public History
- A2.7 Cover Letters
- A2.8 Personal Statements
- A2.9 Moving Forward with Historical Research