

HIST 1F96: The Americas
Winter 2014

ASSIGNMENT 1 GUIDELINES: PRIMARY-SOURCE ANALYSIS

Submit via Sakai by 5 p.m. on Feb. 10; bring hard copy to seminar during week of Feb. 10-14

For this assignment, you will write a 3-5 page paper analyzing the primary sources for Seminar 4 (Francis Walker, Jane Addams, and Anzia Yezierska). Your task is to answer the following question(s).

*Each author offers a different perspective on the “new immigration” to the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. What are the three authors’ perspectives, and how do they differ? What do the three sources tell us about how **native-born Americans** in this period thought about “new immigrants” and the latter’s role in U.S. society?*

NOTE: Your paper is an analysis of primary sources, *not an essay about the immigrant experience*. This does not mean you can’t touch on the immigrant experience (that may happen naturally at appropriate points in your paper) – but be sure you fulfill the actual assignment.

Reading primary sources

Read each source carefully. Before writing your paper, be sure you can answer the following questions about each one:

- Who wrote the source? (Be sure to gather some biographical information about the authors.)
- What type of source is it (e.g., letter, newspaper article, speech, etc.)?
- When and where was it created, and in what historical context?
- What audience is the author trying to reach?
- Why did the author create the document? Consider:
 - What ideas, impressions, etc., about the new immigration and/or new immigrants does s/he convey?
 - What does s/he want to convince readers to believe about the new immigration and/or new immigrants?
 - What larger purposes or goals might s/he have in mind?
- How does the author communicate her/his ideas?
- In your view, does the author succeed in getting her/his message across?
- Finally, consider: what might help explain *why* the author holds her/his particular views?

Answering these questions will help you to write a stronger paper.

Logistical requirements

- Your paper must be 3-5 pages long, not counting the title page or bibliography page.

- Type and double-space your paper, using Times New Roman 12-point type and leaving 1-inch (2.54 cm) margins on all sides (please, no padding with extra spacing or giant margins!).
- Include a separate title page, with a *relevant* title, your name, course number and name, TA's name, and date.
- Number your pages (the title page doesn't get a number) and, for your hard-copy submission, staple the pages together.
- Use footnotes or endnotes (single-spaced) to cite your sources. For proper citation style, see Rampolla, chapter 7.
- Include a separate bibliography page (single-space each item). For proper bibliographic style, see Rampolla, chapter 7.
- For help interpreting sources, writing papers, quoting and citing sources, avoiding plagiarism, etc., see relevant sections of Rampolla and resources provided for this class.

Before turning in your paper, ask yourself

- Do I begin with a strong, clear introduction?
- Does my introduction contain a strong, clear thesis?
- Have I supported my assertions with concrete, relevant evidence and examples?
- Is my paper well organized and clearly written?
- Have I proofread my paper and corrected any grammar and spelling errors?
- Are my sources properly quoted and documented? (See Rampolla, chapter 7.)

Submitting your paper

See the Sakai assignment submission guidelines for details. Remember: you have *one chance at resubmission* for this assignment.