

History 585
Second Argument Essay

Due at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday April 2
Your TA will tell you how to submit your essay

Considering information from course lectures, readings, and videos from the past few weeks, please write an essay that answers one of the following two questions—your choice!

1. Using our discussion of Black Power from the “Alcindor and Revolt” lecture as your starting point, to what extent was basketball an expression of Black Power since the 1960s?
2. To what extent has the game of basketball helped to transcend the idea of racial difference in the United States since the 1960s?

Regardless of which question you select to answer, **an outstanding essay** will (1) have a clear and forceful **argument** in your opening paragraph in which you explicitly answer the above question; (2) will support and develop that argument by using **evidence and examples** drawn from lectures and course readings (see more below); (3) will only explore **the era we are asking you to consider**—that is, basketball history from the 1960s to the era we are in when your essay is due; and (4) your essay will **be nuanced and seek the limits of your own argument**.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENT: As one of the skills of the historian is interpreting documents and using them as evidence for their claims, in this essay you **must** explicitly reference **at least three** of the basketball readings (primary or secondary sources) assigned in this course. Among the more recently assigned and relevant sources are the book, *Jumpman*, the documentary, *Doin’ It in the Park*, and the film, *Hoosiers*, and shorter readings from *Esquire*, *Sports Illustrated*, and other essays. You do not need to use all these sources—indeed, different sources are relevant for the different questions—but a compelling essay will use the best sources and evidence available.

How to reference a film: Films and documentaries do not have page numbers, obviously, but you might reference a scene in *Hoosiers* and write, “In the film, *Hoosiers*, the coach, Norma Dale, insists that his team pass the ball four times before shooting...” Just be as specific as possible about the scene you are describing and explain why you are using it as evidence for your claim.

Formatting Guidelines: Your essay should be 4-6 pages in length (an essay shorter than four full pages is too short; an essay longer than six full pages is too long). The essay must be typed, double-spaced, use 12-point font (we suggest Times New Roman), and have one-inch margins.

In the **upper-left corner** of the first page your essay, include **three single-spaced lines** with: (1) your name; (2) the class number (HIST 585 and your three-digit section number); and (3) the date you are turning in the essay.

Give your essay a title—though no title pages please.

Make sure your essay has **page numbers** and, if submitting a paper copy, ***staple your pages together!*** “Stapled” means stapled—no paperclips or folded edges, please!

At the end of your essay, please type the words **“Honor Code”** and then print your name (please note that you are bound by the UNC Honor Code whether you do this or not).

FOOTNOTING: Like with the first essay, please use **Chicago/Turabian style footnotes** in your essay. There is a **Footnote Guide** on the course Sakai “Resources” page to help you with the formatting. If you have any questions about footnoting, please come and see me or your Teaching Assistant.

Also on the Sakai “Resources” page is a two-page writing guide, **“How to Write a Compelling History Essay.”** We recommend that you review this guide no matter how many History essays you have written. Again, if you have questions about this guide, please speak with one of the course instructors.

WRITING ABOUT RACE: When writing about groups of people, it can sometimes be difficult to know what language to use. To help with this, we have posted on Sakai a brief guide titled, “Writing About Race.” We want this guide to be helpful, so *please consult this guide* before writing your essay.

Formatting Checklist (for your use)

___ Is your name on your essay?

___ Does your essay have a title?

___ Are your pages numbered?

___ Is your essay 4-6 pages long, typed, double-spaced, with 12-point font, and one-inch margins?

___ Is your essay stapled (if handing in a paper copy)?

___ At the end of your essay, have you typed the words “Honor Code” and then signed or typed your name?

“The ceiling is the roof”
-Michael Jordan