# Why the History Department Minimum of 30 Percent Means You Must Write

Understand the History Department’s requirement that all history courses have a minimum of 30% of the course grade (the final letter grade) based on writing means you **must** do at least **some** of the writing assignments.

## The Math Tells You Why – Math is your friend.

At 30%, a 1000-point course has

* 300 points(30 %) specific writing assignments (in this course the work we discuss today)
* 700 points (70%) objective assignments (in this course Learning Quizzes and the 3 Unit Exams and the Final Exam)

If you did this:

* Did **No** writing assignments—**none** of the 300 possible points
* And you **only** attempted objective work = 700 possible points

Then the math shows what would happen to your Final Letter grade for the course depending on whether you did those **quizzes and exams** at C-level, B-level, or A-level:

* If “C” work (70%) on the 700 points for objective assignments, then you’d have   
  70% of 700 points= 490 out of the 1000   
  **Final Letter grade for the COURSE**: an F
* If “B” work (80%) on the 700 points for objective assignments, then you’d have  
  80% of 700 = 560 out of the 1000  
  **Final Letter grade for the COURSE**: a higher **“F”**
* If “A” work (90%) on the objective assignments, then you’d have   
  90% of 700 = 630   
  **Final Letter grade for the COURSE**: a **“D”**
* Perfect work (100%) on all objective assignments, then you’d have   
  100% of 700 points= 700  
  **Final Letter grade for the COURSE**: a **“C” – To work that hard because perfect is hard to do and then only have a C is risky.**

Guys, this is why the writing in this course is set up as I have:

* Quizzes you on what you think is true about evidence and writing before you act
* Requires you use only the 3 primaries provided (and only the yellow-highlighted sections) and specific textbook pages
* Focuses first on observing reality 3 times using the 5-*W*s; then on writing about that reality.
* Is brief—The largest writing is 1-page.

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