

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-Ws; then on writing about that reality.
- Is brief—The largest writing is 1-page.

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