

Several years back -Texas Master Syllabus required US History classes to use primary sources in writing with the percent of your grade for writing increasing. It's now 30% of your letter grade.

Example: a 1000-point course = 700 points for objective work + 300 points for specific writing assignments.

If you **only** attempted objective work (700 possible points), then the math show:

- C work (70%) on the objective assignments, then you'd have 70% of 700 points= 490 out of the 1000 – **an F**
- B work (80%) on the objective assignments, then you'd have 80% of 700 points= 560 out of the 1000 – **an F**
- A work (90%) on the objective assignments, then you'd have 90% of 700 points= 630 out of the 1000 – **a low D**
- Perfect work (100%) on the objective assignments, then you'd have 100% of 700 points out of the 1000 – **a C**

Each example above is just too risky for student. The purpose of the F.I.O. Projects (reality writing) was to make more things possible for more students.

1. Find the fewest skills necessary for success and focus on them. Would anyone pay you for this skill?
Link Address:
http://www.cjbibus.com/Getting_Started_Good_Habits_for_Evidence_Would_anyone_pay_you_for_t_his_skill.pdf
2. Make it possible for students to get **better within a semester by splitting** the work into 3-Parts. You do not have to start out knowing out to do this, but **if you get better by the end**, you can overwrite the weak grade. (See OVERWRITE in the syllabus.)
3. Lower the work for the project but increase the amount of useful practice
 - Where the quantity of pages or other content was small but the amount of practice was large and realistic
 - Where you are all using the same sources so many can give you useful feedback
 - Where 5% (50) of the 30% comes from Evidence Quizzes that help identify what you do not know but that you can redo until the highest grade counts
 - With simple citation that would work even when you were trying to figure something out for yourself, not another person or a job.
4. Require skills useful for students so practicing these skills would make them better off:
 - With skills that people need during times of change or challenge (life skills)
 - With skills recognized as necessary for jobs, such as reading, writing, planning, and self-management
 - With skills recognized as being necessary for the study of many fields from the physical to the social sciences-or understanding **anything** that is real
 - With helping each other improve as teams (not the same thing as a group) as useful practice for many parts of your life

Think about it. You may be able to develop your skills with this approach **and** improve your points.