

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: RESEARCH PAPER GUIDELINES (DEVELOPED BY MIRANGELA BUGGS)

In this assignment, you will have the opportunity to research how groups in the U.S. have worked to confront and transform oppression through learning about social movements and progressive activism. The project involves connecting our course materials and discussions to outside materials in order to make an informed analysis about how and why forms of oppression have been challenged and how social gains have been made through collective movements. Your paper should be 7-10 pages long. Please put your best effort into this, as it is worth 20% of your final grade.

In this paper, you will need to demonstrate *all* of the following:

- 1) An understanding of the systemic and institutional nature of oppression;
- 2) An understanding of the histories and issues of social identities/social locations of the dominant and subordinate groups that are involved in a form of oppression;
- 3) An historical analysis of how and why the social movement emerged;
- 4) An understanding of how the social movement participants understood the workings of the form(s) of oppression that they sought to challenge;
- 5) An understanding of the activities of the social movement, its participants, visions, and strategies;
- 6) An understanding of whether the social movement addressed more than one form of oppression, and if so, how the movement saw the connections between the forms of oppression. If the movement only addressed one form of oppression, what is your analysis of why this happened;
- 7) An understanding of what the social movement achieved *specifically* and what still has yet to be achieved regarding the ending of oppression.

Some social movements that you may be interested in researching

The U.S. Abolitionist Movement, 19th century

Anti-lynching campaigns, 18th and 19th centuries

Political movements during Reconstruction in the South 1865-1877

Movements for Educational Opportunities for People of Color

Movements to Racially Desegregate the Military, Police, and Firefighting Forces

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's, '60's and '70's (you may want to choose a particular aspect of the movement – desegregation of transportation and public accommodations, school desegregation, voting rights and political representation, etc.)

The Black Power Movement

The American Indian Movement

The Chicano/Mexican-American Movement

The Young Lords (Puerto Rican social movement – 1960's & 1970's)

Students for a Democratic Society

The Movements for Ethnic Studies in Colleges and Universities

Chicano/a Student Walkouts

Cultural Movements and Movements for Self-Determination of Peoples of Color

The “New Abolitionist” Movement (and other white anti-racist movements)

United Farmworkers' Movement

Labor Organizing of the 19th and 20th centuries (note issues of race/ethnicity and gender involved in these)

Welfare Rights Movements (note gender issues in these)

Worker and Union Organizing in the U.S.

First Wave Feminist Movements (suffrage, labor, independence and education for women, etc.)

Second Wave Feminist Movements (equal rights under the law, cultural change, violence against women, work and pay issues, reproductive rights, women's political participation, etc.)

Third Wave Feminism (contemporary feminist activism, intersections of race, class, and sexuality, women of color feminism, etc.)

Movements to End Violence Against Women (both focused on women and efforts focused on men)

Pro-Feminist Men's Movements

Women of All Red Nations

Gay Liberation Movement of the 1960's and '70's

Present-day Movements for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Rights (gay marriage activism, anti-violence/anti-homophobic work, gender neutrality, intersex movements, queer people of color movements, etc.)

Research Tips

For this project, you should use both course readings and outside sources (books, articles, or videos) to frame your analysis of the overarching institutional dynamics of the form(s) of oppression that the movement addresses/addressed. Books, articles, and videos should also be used to learn about, place in historical context, and analyze the social movement that you are working with. You should use about 7-10 print and/or video sources with *no more than three (3)* internet sources from the world wide web.

Research Process

- Attached is a list of suggested resources that may be of interest in your project. (Resource list is on this Website, Section 2D). Don't feel that you need to limit yourselves to these; they are a short compilation based on my own knowledge and research. Go check some of these out.
- Do a web search to get a sense of important social movements, to do some initial learning, and to get ideas for books, articles, and videos that you can find at libraries, in video stores, or for purchase.
- **Go to the library.** Spend some hours there finding what is available to you at UMass and the five college library systems regarding reference books, other books, videos and journal and periodical articles. Begin to compile your sources.
- Write a summary of your research project, the movement you have chosen, the form(s) of oppression it addressed, your analysis of the history and practice of the form of oppression that the movement challenged, and what the movement addressed overall in the U.S. Also, include an *annotated* (see attached) list of sources that you will use. This summary and annotated reference list will be your Homework 5, due on Tuesday, April 11.
- Research and write your paper: Read and reference your sources; outline your analysis and craft a quality paper. Use APA citation style (see handout). Your final paper is due on May 9. You will not have the opportunity to revise or rewrite this paper, so do your best work.

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS RESEARCH PROJECT: GRADING CRITERIA

INTRODUCTORY ANALYSES	POINTS	
Demonstrates a <i>systemic and historical</i> (macro, meso, global) analysis of the oppression(s) pertinent to the social movement	30	
Demonstrates an understanding of how issues of <i>social identity and social power</i> (micro, meso) influenced the form of oppression being confronted by the movement	30	
THE BODY OF THE PAPER		
Information about the movement, its history, origins, activities and key players – an analysis of how and why the movement emerged	50	
Information about what the social movement achieved specifically (examples: new laws and policies, cultural and attitudinal change, etc.) and your analysis of what may still need to change regarding oppression/discrimination	40	
MECHANICS		
Paper is well-written and organized, spell-checked with proper grammatical usage and stapled	20	
7-10 approved sources used	20	
Proper in-text citations and properly formatted reference page (APA style)	10	200 points total