

STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL FUND REPAYABLE SCHOLARSHIP

Writing Tips

In adherence of Administrative Code of Alabama, Chapter 894-X-1-.03, which governs the distribution of funds associated with the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Fund Repayable Scholarship, students' essays will be judged by their historical and literary quality.

Historical Quality (80%)

Criteria considered in Historical Quality include historical accuracy, appropriate analysis and interpretation of topic, demonstrated knowledge of historical context and perspective and use of balanced and appropriate research sources as demonstrated in the annotated bibliography.

- ◆ ***Historical Accuracy*** 30 points
 - Determines that sources are viable and reputable
 - Provides an accurate representation of the facts that are involved

- ◆ ***Appropriate Analysis and Interpretation*** 10 points
 - Demonstrates critical thinking
 - Develops and defends a historical interpretation
 - Identifies and avoids bias

- ◆ ***Historical Context and Perspective*** 10 points
 - Presents evidence and arguments correctly in time
 - Illustrates how historical events influenced and was influenced by the social, cultural, political, and economic realities of the time period

- ◆ ***Annotated Bibliography with appropriate research sources*** 30 points

All historical writing depends on sources. Sources essentially come in two varieties:

- **Primary sources** are materials produced in the time period under study
- **Secondary sources** are materials produced after the time period under study

An **annotated bibliography** allows the writer to examine the sources that are used in crafting their essays. Your annotations may do one or more of the following.

- **Summarize:** If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say?
- **Assess:** Is it a useful source?
- **Reflect:** Was this source helpful to you? How does it help you shape your argument?

Literary Quality (20%)

Criteria considered in Literary Quality include originality, organization, grammar and spelling, and adherence to standard citation format.

◆ *Originality*

5 points

Your originality lies in your talent as a critical reader and a thoughtful writer. "Originality" is this ability to communicate fresh perspectives and new insights. "Originality" also means speaking in your own words.

Plagiarism occurs when a person uses the words or ideas of another person as if they were their own. This includes, but is not limited to, copying and pasting from the internet, copying or purchasing someone else's work to use as your own, and/or paraphrasing someone else's ideas without attributing the original author. **Plagiarism is a crime and means automatic disqualification.**

◆ *Organization*

5 points

An essay must have an introductory paragraph, several body paragraphs, and a conclusion that sums up its most important arguments.

◆ *Mechanics*

5 points

Use formal written English for your essays.

Avoid colloquialisms (e.g., cool, kind of, totally, OK, sort of, etc.).

Spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization

Proofread your paper carefully. It is also wise to have someone else read your rough draft.

◆ *Standard Citation Format*

5 points

Employ a responsible and consistent citation style. The main focus should be on consistency and accuracy.

A final note:

Please provide a cover page that includes your name, the title of your essay, and the date that it was written. Number the pages of your paper. Double-space your papers and use a standard, twelve-point font. Set the margins of your page at one inch.