Objective of Assignment:

To familiarize you with primary sources used to reconstruct a military event, including analysis of two modern

historians' views of the reliability of the ancient or classical author.

To strengthen your understanding of differences between primary and secondary sources in research.

To provide you with additional practice finding and utilizing primary and secondary sources.

Student Outcomes:

After completing this assignment, you will have a better understanding of how to identify and evaluate one primary

source and two secondary source writings and their role in reconstructing military events. Use of Chicago-Turabian

footnote or endnote citation and multimedia resource are required.

Assignment Directions:

Part 1). To complete this assignment, please choose one of the following battle sites (battlefields or sieges) listed

below and studied in this course and complete a primary source evaluation of the event.

Siege of Paris, 885-886

Part 2). After choosing your battle site, identify the primary classical or medieval historian (choose only one historian)

associated with the event and discuss the reliability of his or her narrative and analysis. Include a short biography of

this historian and their personal relationship to the event (was the author a witness to the events or relying on other

material in his or her reconstruction). This will require consultation with a minimum of two modern academic

secondary sources (monographs or scholarly articles, online tertiary sources are forbidden). In this exercise, please

consult the primary source writing itself with an eye on identifying three critical passages tied to the battle site

(battlefield or siege). Please explain why those passages, in your mind, best represents the primary source

historian's understanding of the event. Do your modern authorities generally agree or disagree with this historian's

perception of the event (here, include troop numbers, strategies, tactics, or motivations for battle or siege)? Finally,

from your understanding of the author and the events he or she chronicled, what biases should a researcher be

aware of when using this primary source to reconstruct military history?

Paper Organization:

Please use the following organization for the paper (use as section subheadings). :

Introduction:

Here, introduce the battle or siege and its significance and the primary source historian to your reader. Include a

short biography of the ancient, classical, or medieval historian (primary source) and their relationship to the event.

Finish your one-paragraph introduction with a bolded thesis statement on the reliability of the source to the event.

Three Critical Passages:

Next, identify three critical passages from your historian's writings that best reconstruct the event. Use of block

quotes is encouraged, followed by any modern analysis from required secondary sources (interpretations from

modern historians). Finally, are there any issues with the primary source's analysis and those of the modern

historians? Do your modern authorities generally agree or disagree with this historian's perception of the event (here,

include troop numbers, strategies, tactics, or motivations for battle or siege)?

Reconstructing the Past: Primary Source Bias

Finally, conclude your short paper with a general discussion on the role of primary source analysis on reconstructing

the past and some of the inherent pitfalls. Here, discuss the value of primary sources in reconstructing military

history, as well as other tools historians can use use to validate (or invalidate) the analysis of the ancient, classical or

medieval historian.

Paper Length and Citation and Multimedia Requirements:

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Your Primary Source Assignment should be completed using a minimum of one primary source and two quality

academic secondary sources in between 1,200 and 1,500 narrative words (minus citation and bibliography).

Chicago-Turabian footnote or endnote citation is required (use of parenthetical citation will result in a one-letter grade

deduction). This assignment will also include a minimum of one multimedia contributions (pictures of the battle site,

associative memorials or commemorations). Please include a short caption tying in this multimedia asset to the

paper.

PROFESSOR CHECK LIST USED TO GRADE READING REPORT AND PRIMARY SOURCE PAPER

Format and Submission

Is your paper formatted in the proper file format (MSWord .doc or docx or .rtf file)?

Does your paper include a separate cover page that includes assignment name, student name and student number,

course name, professor name, date and institution?

Is your paper formatted with one-inch margins and using New Times Roman 11 or 12-point font?

Is your paper double-spaced?

Is your file submitted using last name first name course and assignment?

Example: SmithWilliamMILH221PrimarySourcePaper

Introduction and Thesis Statement

Did your essay include an introduction and clear thesis statement at the end of the introduction? Please bold your

thesis statement.

Organization and Body of Essay

Is your essay well-organized with topic sentences and supporting detail that reinforces your thesis?

Did your essay meet narrative word count requirements? Narrative word count is word count without citation and

bibliography.

Historical Analysis and Use of Historical Sources

Did you construct your essay using quality academic sources (specifically Required and Optional readings from the

Weekly Contents and book or peer-reviewed sources from our Online Library or other university, governmental,

museum, or research websites)?

Did you include relevant historical support, including historical examples that reinforce your thesis?

Did you include chronological context in your essay and include important dates or date spans?

Conclusion

Did you include a well-developed conclusion to your essay that restates your thesis and is well-supported?

Writing Style and Grammar

Is your essay composed using formal English (no use of slang) and using proper capitalization, grammar and

spelling rules?

Is your essay presented in academic third person (does not use "I")?

Did you refrain from using abbreviations and contractions in your analysis (use "do not" instead of "don't")?

Use of Footnotes/Endnotes and Bibliography

Did you consistently follow the citation and bibliographical requirements of Chicago or Turabian manuals?

Did you cite your sources in the narrative of your essay using computer-generated footnote/endnote numbering?

Remember citation takes place immediately after each use of direct quote and after paraphrasing of information.

Did you include a separate bibliography with your essay?

Is the bibliography alphabetized and includes all relevant information depending on source type? Remember

accessed date for online sources.

GRADING RUBRIC:

Format/Submission (5 points): Paper neatly typed and formatted according to assignment guidelines. Title page with

student name, course section, assignment, and date clearly indicated. Question to be answered restated before

essay verbatim. Paper saved according to standard guideline –lastname.firstname.course.assignment as .doc,

.docx. or .rft file.

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Example: SmithWilliamMILH221Week6Assignment

Introduction and Thesis Statement (20 points): Topic is appropriate for paper length; thesis is focused and argument

is fully supported by carefully chosen and weighed facts in each paragraph; evidence of comprehension of historical

context and causality.

Organization and Body of Essay (25 points): The organization of the paper logically supports the purpose or

argument in the introduction, body, and conclusion; ideas are logically sequenced from one paragraph to another

and clearly linked to each other; the reader can easily follow the line of reasoning.

Historical Analysis and Use of Sources (25 points): Two or more sources used demonstrating in-depth research

related to thesis; no tertiary sources used (especially encyclopedias); research clearly incorporated into the

argument in paper; use of information clearly supports the argument and shows, in-depth analysis of a significant

topic; author gained new knowledge about the topic and significance of events.

Writing Style and Grammar (10 points): Spelling, grammar and sentence structure all used effectively.

Use of Citation and Bibliography (15 points): Footnotes/endnotes are correctly cited and bibliography follows the

correct rules for citing sources.