

Research Questions Levels of Arguability Worksheet

- Level 1: Questions that can be answered with knowledge you have right now.
Level 2: Questions that can be definitively answered with scholarly research.
Level 3: Open-ended questions to which an answer can be *proposed* based on scholarly research but that cannot be answered definitively.
Level 4: Questions that cannot be addressed with scholarly research, either because of a lack of evidence or because they ask something that cannot be answered by citing evidence.

Directions: Read the following questions and indicate what level of arguability each of them attains. (Write 1, 2, 3, or 4.)

- _____ 1. When was Germany re-unified?
- _____ 2. How did Ghandi reveal the truth about the human condition?
- _____ 3. Was Stalin the main reason for the fall of the Soviet Union?
- _____ 4. What was the difference between German and Italian fascism?
- _____ 5. What was the role of architecture in imperial Japan?
- _____ 6. How and why did the women's liberation movement evolve during the 1960s?
- _____ 7. How much freedom do Islamic women possess in the household?
- _____ 8. What role did art play in expressing the anxieties of interwar France?
- _____ 9. Why was existentialism an appealing philosophy in postwar Europe?
- _____ 10. What strategies and war technologies did the Third Reich use in order to make their conquest more effective?
- _____ 11. How do Asian philosophies shape and inform modern Western medical practices and methodologies?
- _____ 12. Who developed the internet?
- _____ 13. How did the practice of Buddhhsim develop in the modern West? What distinct characteristics make it different from Eastern Buddhism? What major contributions do Eastern Buddhism make to western culture and technology?
- _____ 14. Which religion is more violent: Christianity or Islam?
- _____ 15. What is the significance of the Virgin of Guadeloupe in modern Mexican society?
- _____ 16. Why do Islamic and Christian cultures clash so violently?
- _____ 17. What was the role of women in African society?

- _____ 18. Why has immigration been such a problem in modern Europe?
- _____ 19. Does medicine play a religious or scientific role in Islamic society?
- _____ 20. From where did AIDS originate, and how did it become a world health crisis?

Checklist for Approval of Research Question Submissions MMW 4T – Fall 2008

Students: Does your Research Question satisfy each of the following requirements stated in the Writing Assignment?

(TAs: Circle an answer for each item)

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|----|--|-----|----|
| 1. | Submission states the topic of the paper and the precise Research Question that the paper will answer | YES | NO |
| 2. | Research Question addresses topic appropriate to the assignment prompt | YES | NO |
| 3. | Covers events during the period covered by MMW 4T (1200BCE-1750CE) | YES | NO |
| 4. | Will lead to an <i>argument</i> that answers a <i>debatable question</i> | YES | NO |
| 5. | Is narrow enough to permit you to cover the question thoroughly, with careful exposition of both the argument and at least one counter-argument, in 8-10 pages | YES | NO |
| 6. | Is typed and otherwise complies with all requirements of the MMW Style Sheet | YES | NO |
| 7. | Includes citations where necessary (e.g., when you introduce facts, ideas, and arguments drawn from other sources) | YES | NO |

If the answer to ANY of the above is "NO," then the topic cannot be approved. If that is the case, you need to re-formulate your Research Question in a way that will satisfy each of the requirements of the Writing Assignment. To do that, please talk with me as soon as possible about the question. You need to get your topic and question approved quickly so that you can prepare the Prospectus. ** Remember that papers written on topics not approved in writing will not be accepted, and the writing assignment must be completed in its entirety to receive credit for the course.

Your Research Question is:

APPROVED

DISAPPROVED

Annotated bibliography (check appropriate category):

- No bibliography
- Bibliography without annotations
- Minimal attempt to provide annotated bibliography
- Substantial annotated bibliography with some deficiencies
- Thorough annotated bibliography with few deficiencies
- Superior annotated bibliography with negligible deficiencies

Comments: