

Dr. Leah Goldman  
Office: Old Main 204C  
Office Hours: Weds 10-12, Thurs 2:45-3:45  
*All office hours meetings are on Zoom!*  
lgoldman@washjeff.edu

## **HIS 270-02: Revolution! Europe at the Barricades**

### **Midterm Editorial Assignment**

#### **Overview**

The goal of this assignment is to refine your skills in three areas: working with primary sources, making an evidence-based written argument, and presenting in front of a group. You may construct any argument that you want, as long as it is directly supported by primary source evidence and logical analysis. Be bold and have fun!

#### **Instructions**

Choose one of the **primary sources** (or a couple of short ones that are related) that were assigned during our unit on the French Revolution. Cast yourself as a person living in France or its colonies during the Revolution and develop an argument in support of or opposition to your primary source. Write an editorial or blogger-style commentary in which you argue for your position, using quotations from the source(s) to support your claims.

As you work on your paper, keep in mind that you are writing *as a historical actor*, not as a historian. You may use any of our assigned secondary sources to help you understand context, but you should not quote from them. This is your chance to debate with the National Assembly, Robespierre, Napoleon, Dessalines, and others!

After you have submitted your editorial, you will also get a chance to argue for it in the public square (which this semester is located on Zoom). You will have the floor for ten minutes. You should be prepared to speak for five minutes, in which you will state your main argument and make the case for it using your evidence. Your colleagues will then have five minutes to ask you questions. Make sure your argument is strong, so you don't get the guillotine!

#### **Mechanics**

- Your editorial must be **1500 words long**—and I will count! If you write less than 1300 words, you will be penalized.
- Put your **name** and a **headline** on the first page and **number your pages**.
- Use **12-point font, double spacing, and 1-inch margins**.
- You must use **internal citations** for all quotations.
- You must attach a **Works Cited** page. This should be a separate page. It must be properly formatted, using *The Chicago Manual of Style*. You can access the *CMS* through the Library. (Trust me, this is good practice for the future!)

**DON'T PLAGIARIZE!** I am all-seeing and all-knowing, and I **will** figure it out if you plagiarize. If you have a question about how to avoid plagiarism, please feel free to ask me. I am happy to meet with you during office hours any time before the paper is due.

### **Writing Resources**

Please check out the **Writing Resources Page** on the course website. It includes a Writing Handout (with links to the Purdue Owl writing resource), my Patented Guide to Good Paper Writing, and a video writing lesson.

### **Due Date**

This assignment must be submitted on **Sakai** and is due **Sunday, October 11 at 10pm**. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day.

**Good luck!!!**