U.S. History take-home essay assignment #1: this is an optional assignment that, if you choose to do it, can only help your trimester grade.

J-Stor Scholarly Journal Article Reflection Paper:

Find one scholarly journal article on a topic of interest to you, which relates to either American history or American current events. Read the article and highlight key phrases or ideas from the article that you feel are particularly powerful, meaningful, or that just stand out in your mind. Write a 2-3 page reflection paper, giving your personal thoughts and reactions to the article. Include some brief quotes in your reflection. (Typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt., 1” margins, Word Document). Essay will be evaluated on depth and thoughtfulness of reflection, and on clarity of writing and expression. Paper should include bibliographic citation for your source article in a Works Cited at the end of the paper.

Due date: submit both a hard copy of your article, with key phrases highlighted, and a printed hard copy of your paper, or place both in my H: drive folder, by the due date.

The purpose of this paper is to give you more leeway and flexibility than the other essays and tests that you have worked on for much of the year.

I would like you to find a topic that is personally interesting to you, so I hesitate to put a list up for fear that you will choose one from the list instead of something you thought of on your own. However, you may look at the list below for a list of potential topics/ideas. You cannot use the same book or essay you used for another class, though the topic may be the same or similar if it is of strong interest to you.

Research Resources: You must use J-Stor to get your scholarly journal article.
Advanced U.S. History – End-of-Year Assignment

You will find one scholarly journal article on a topic of interest to you, which relates to either American history or American current events, and write a 2-3 page reaction paper giving your thoughts on the topic and article. Since research time is limited, your research will be circumscribed to journal articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals chosen from the list of journals below, or equivalent journals that represent scholarly research. You cannot use the exact same book or essay you used for Ms. Hamilton’s class, though the topic may be similar if it is of interest to you. Peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles should be found using J-Stor only. The paper will be due by 12:00 Noon, Friday, May 23rd. The paper will be graded on: clarity of writing and the thoughtfulness/quality of reflection and ideas. Papers will be typed, double-spaced, 1” margins, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font. Paper should include bibliographic citation for your source article in a Works Cited at the end of the paper.

Journals:

Choose from the list of journals below, or equivalent journals that represent scholarly research. Hint: Journals whose titles begin with “Journal of…” or end with “…Quarterly” are generally good, however, common news magazines such as Time or Newsweek are not. Scholarly journals contain articles by academic researchers, and are footnoted and documented, with bibliographic information at the end of the article.

Law journals are published by every major university law school and are a good source for legal / Supreme Court topics.

Other examples of scholarly journals:

American Heritage
American History
American Journal of Political Science
American Political Science Review
Campaigns & Elections
Comparative Political Studies
Congress and the Presidency
Congressional Digest
Constitutional Review
Democratization
Diplomatic History
Essays in History
Ethics & International Affairs
Foreign Affairs
Foreign Policy
Government and Opposition
Harvard Historical Studies
Harvard International Review
History and Theory
International Affairs
International Organization
International Relations
International Security
International Studies Quarterly
Journal of American History
Journal of American Studies
Journal of Cold War Studies
Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History
Journal of Democracy
Journal of Economic History

Journal of Interdisciplinary History
Journal of International Affairs
Journal of International History
Journal of Modern History
Journal of Negro History
Journal of Political Ideologies
Journal of Politics
Journal of Social History
Journal of Supreme Court History

Journal of the Early Republic
Journal of the History of Economic Thought
Journal of the History of Ideas
Journal of the History of International Law
Journal of Women's History
Journal of Theoretical Politics
National Political Science Review
Peace and Change
Political Science Quarterly
Political Theory
Politics and Society
Presidential Studies Quarterly
Radical History Review

The American Historical Review
William & Mary Quarterly
Wilson Quarterly
World Affairs
Potential U.S. History Research Topics:

1. intolerance and nativism in American society
2. comparative anti-war or peace movements (WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam)
3. McCarthy Era – difference between conscientious dissent and disloyalty
4. the Rosenberg Trial – guilt or innocence – or as compared to Sacco and Vanzetti – or a fair trial
   a. other recent spy cases would be interesting, i.e., Walker
5. Henry Wallace and the Progressive Party
6. Oppenheimer Case – new evidence has come to light with Russian spy’s memoirs
7. Protection of Nazi war criminals
8. Richard Nixon – reappraisal of his political career?
9. Warren Court – key decisions
10. J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI
11. Black Panther Party or other black issues of the late 1960’s early 1970’s
12. Changing values in American society – generational clashes
13. Women’s issues – Phyllis Schafly vs. Gloria Steinem; or the New Feminism
14. Election of 1968 as compared to other significant elections
15. Watergate
16. Vietnam
17. Fate of Panama Canal
18. 1980’s conservative resurgence – Ronald Reagan and/or George Bush
19. 1990’s liberal resurgence – analysis and/or assessment of Bill Clinton
20. The Gulf War – a “feel good” war?
22. Robert E. Lee vs. Ulysses S. Grant
23. Gettysburg (or any Civil War battles or issues)
24. Abraham Lincoln – was he our greatest president?
25. Lincoln’s assassination – and trial of his murderers?
26. the creation of Texas
27. James K. Polk and the Mexican War
28. Salem Witch Trials
29. the Underground Railroad
30. the Burr-Hamilton duel
31. the Burr Conspiracy
32. Thomas Jefferson
   a. political thought
   b. Sally Hemmings issue
33. Civil War issues
34. Black troops in the Civil War
35. William T. Sherman – “total warfare” and its impact on the waging of war
36. American rebellions – how the masses resist the will of government
37. Women’s Rights issues – Seneca Falls Convention, etc.
38. John Marshall & the Supreme Court
39. Southern tradition of independent thinking and suspicion of centralized government – Nullification Theory and States Rights
40. Indian removal – Trail of Tears, King Philip’s War, etc.
41. Utopian communities – successes or failures?
42. Slave Rebellions – how close did they come to succeeding? Nat Turner, Denmark Vesey, Gabriel Proser, John Brown’s Raid at Harpers Ferry
43. the impeachment of Andrew Johnson
44. Reconstruction – success or failure?
45. the rise of the KKK
46. Lowell mill girls – life in early industrial factories
47. The Equal Rights Amendment