

## **Grading Rubric for Paper 2**

HIST 2020: US since 1877

Dr. Sarah Potter

**A/A-:** A very good paper all around. The paper has a clear and insightful thesis statement. It is well written and easy to follow. It is well organized with an introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion. The paper demonstrates a solid understanding of the required primary source, the required secondary source, the historical context, and the question posed, as well as the ability to analyze and draw new conclusions about this material. The paper uses ample evidence from the source to support and elaborate on its thesis.

**B+/B/B-:** A solid and clear paper that has a couple of weak points. The paper has a clear thesis statement. It is well written and easy to follow, but might have some organizational problems or occasionally have unclear sentences. The paper demonstrates that the student basically understands the required primary source, the required secondary source, the historical context, and the question posed, but it might occasionally be a little vague on some points. The paper uses evidence from the source, but could have used more or used it more persuasively. Generally, a B-range paper shows less analytical sophistication than an A-range paper. It does not demonstrate the same depth of understanding, writing skills, and/or ability to draw new conclusions as an A-range paper.

**C+/C/C-:** A paper that has significant problems, but does present some good ideas. The paper has a thesis, but it is less clear, analytical, or insightful than that of an A or B-range paper. The paper addresses the general topic of the required primary source and makes some relevant points. But it does not demonstrate a thorough understanding of the source, the historical context, and/or the question posed. The student makes real mistakes in explaining or analyzing the source, or shows little understanding of the historical context. The paper may not use much evidence, or it may misuse that evidence. In terms of writing, a C-range paper is also often hard to understand or follow, so that it is difficult to assess the student's true understanding of the material.

**D+/D:** A paper with only a few redeeming qualities. The paper addresses the topic or question at hand, but it contains serious mistakes. It may not have a thesis and/or may not use adequate evidence from the required primary source. It reflects an engagement with the material, but suggests a very shallow understanding of the reading and course content.

**F:** A paper that shows very little effort or understanding. It has such serious flaws in terms of structure, content, and analysis that it cannot be given a passing grade.