

History 17A Paper Assignment

Dred Scott v. Sanford: A Brief History with Documents

It is very important to follow all of these instructions to do well on this assignment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me so I can help you sort them out.

Due Date: Please submit your paper anytime between 12/1 and 12/5. Submit your paper via the “Assignment” tab in Blackboard. Do not cut-and-paste your paper into the window. You must attach your paper as a Microsoft Word document. **No late papers!**

Please answer **ONE** of the following three questions:

1. **How did the various Supreme Court Justices interpret the Dred Scott v. Sanford case and which Justices made the best arguments to defend their positions?**
2. **How did the media (newspapers) cover the Dred Scott decision? What were some of the common interpretations of the decision and which arguments do you believe were the most valid?**
3. **Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas assessed the Dred Scott decision differently. How did these two politicians interpret the decision and whose arguments do you believe were most valid?**

The paper must:

1. Make reference to at least three of the primary documents from the book, preferably more.
2. Be between three and four pages (approximately 1000 words) in length.
3. Be double-spaced.
4. Be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font.
5. Have 1" margins on the top and bottom and 1.25" margins on the left and right.
6. Have page numbers on each page except for the first page.
7. Have your name on the top, right corner of the first page.
8. Use footnotes for purposes of citation (see next page for instructions).

There is NO NEED:

1. For a title page.
2. For a works cited page.
3. To consult any materials other than the *Dred Scott v. Sanford: A Brief History with Documents*.

Please do NOT:

1. Use block quotes (a block quote is a quote that is more than two full lines).
2. Over quote (there should be no more than two quotes per paragraph for the purposes of this assignment and a good rule of thumb would be to average one quote per paragraph, although not all paragraphs will have a quote).
3. Use quotes in topic sentences.
4. Use free-standing quotes (instead use quotes to support an idea or point and integrate quotes into the flow of your text rather than merely plopping them into a paragraph without setting them up).

Footnotes: Using the footnote feature varies from program to program and version of program to version of program. When using Microsoft Word, you either click “References” or “Insert” (depending on the version) located on the toolbar, then click either “References” or “Insert Footnote” and then click “OK.” A small “1” will appear where your cursor is located and you will be bumped to the bottom of the page (see example below).¹ The number at the end of the citation is the page in which you took the quote or retrieved the information.

Note: once you fully cite a book then you should use the abbreviated means of citing your source, known as “Ibid.” For example:

Finkelman noted that “many southerners were unhappy with the Missouri Compromise,” adding that some living south of the Mason-Dixon Line “believed it was a bad bargain.”²

Because you are only using the Finkelman book for this paper, you would use Ibid. for every citation from footnote two on....But do be sure to put the appropriate page number after the Ibid. for each citation.

Good luck!!! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

¹ Paul Finkelman, *Dred Scott v. Sandford: A Brief History with Documents* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 1997), 25.

² Ibid., 9.