

## Maritime History Research Paper

1. Your **research paper** (7 pages) will be a serious attempt (i.e. an essay) to deal with a historical problem of your own choice. On Sept. 29th you must hand in a topic proposal. This proposal must include:

- a developed thesis statement with two to three explanatory sentences—in a single paragraph and
- topic must be approved by Kinch

- You can select any *historical* topic relevant to Maritime history from the timeframe the appearance earliest historical records -1520. The topic should concern *past events*, and deal with a specific point of interest (see thesis statement, below). Think of something that interests you. Take a position, argue a point, do not just describe something. Also, this is NOT an international relations paper so... although you can allude to current events, they should not be the thrust of your effort.

- The paper **must** conform to Chicago footnote style.

- After you have done some preliminary reading, formulate the THESIS STATEMENT you intend to defend in your paper.

*NOTE: A thesis statement (the word means "idea") is **not** a) a statement of the topic [e.g. "This paper is about Louis XIV and absolutism"], b) a statement of intention [e.g. I will look at the issue of Louis XIV and absolutism"], c) a statement of a blindingly obvious truth [e.g. "Louis XIV was a French king who advocated absolutism"].*

*Rather a thesis statement seeks to summarize in one or two sentences the argument you will make in your paper, e.g. "Louis XIV's policies advanced royal power at the expense of the nobility both by expanding the scope of state power and by giving over the administration to bourgeois state officials". Your paper would then consist of arguments to defend this thesis and to refute objections.*

***To summarize: you have a THESIS, the thesis is backed up by a number of ARGUMENTS, the arguments are supported by FACTS, the facts, especially important ones, are reinforced by CITATIONS AND NOTES.***

2. After having a **consult** with Kinch on the direction of your paper, using the bibliographical resources of the Library, your textbook suggestions, and internet/outside library resources create a typed bibliography of at least 10 items. 6 of those must be cited in the paper. 2 must be paper sources. 1 must be a primary source. Do not use general encyclopedia articles (wikipedia, about.com, Britannica). This is due on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

3. Turn in completed paper on or before **December 8<sup>th</sup>**.