



THE KNOX SCHOOL

U.S. History Honors 2020 Summer Assignment

Directions: This assignment is a continuation of the content we would have learned had school had not been cut short.

Due Date: First day of your U.S. History class.

The Modern World

After the Cold War, the next major event that shook the world was the September 11th attacks on the Twin Towers in NYC. This brought about a new world and put the word “terrorism” back into everyday conversations. So that leaves the question... **What is Terrorism?**

In order to better understand terrorism, we need to better understand what terrorism *is*. Look at the categories below and think about the questions asked. Then, define what you believe a terrorist would be within each category, answering the questions as you go.

WHAT MAKES A TERRORIST?

Method/result

Terrorism includes violence, but what about threats of violence? Kidnapping? Arson? Rape? What if no one is harmed -- is it still terrorism?

Perpetrator

Who carries out terrorism? Is terrorism always carried out by organized opposition groups? Can states be terrorists? Can individuals? Consider issues of inspiration, planning, provision of weapons, military assistance.

Target

Does terrorism target only civilians? Could an attack on a military target be terrorism? How do you decide what a civilian is? What about off-duty military personnel? Colonial occupiers? What about assassination of a head of state, one of whose roles is commander in chief? For an act of violence to qualify as terrorism, must its perpetrators deliberately target civilians, or simply be reckless as to whether civilians as well as military targets might be harmed? Are all attacks on civilians terrorism? Is the target of terrorism always human, or can acts of sabotage against property also be considered terrorism?

Motive

Is the motive behind an act important in deciding if it is terrorism, or should only the act itself be considered? What is the objective of terrorism? Is terrorism "violence for an audience" -- an act committed to inspire fear in the public and therefore force policy changes? Or does a terrorist act

have specific strategic objectives? Does it make any difference if the perpetrators consider themselves a martyr for a religious or political cause?

Point of view

If a cause is considered legitimate, are any means to achieve its goals legitimate? How does one distinguish between a terrorist and a freedom fighter? What is the difference between terrorism and guerrilla warfare? Is terrorism "the weapon of the weak"? Are illegitimate acts against an enemy in war terrorism, war crimes, or is there a difference? Does history change the definition of terrorism? If a group achieves independence using tactics called terrorist by their previous occupier or sovereign, making their "rebellion" into a "war of independence," are they justified by their eventual success in becoming a state?

Method	
Perpetrator	
Target	
Motive	
Point of View	

Culminating Project

After completing the chart, pick a terrorist group from the following: ISIS (Middle East), Al Qaeda (Middle East/Africa), Boko Haram (Africa), Al Shabaab (Africa), IRA (Ireland), Hamas (Palestine), Hezbollah (Lebanon), PKK (Turkey, "Kurdistan") and research the group for each of the above categories. You will write an essay doing the following: Defining terrorism based on your definition in the above categories, sharing information about your terrorist group, and answering the questions: Is this group a terrorist group based on your above definition? Does it match all or only some of the definition?

Keep your research to be handed in with essay, cited sources in MLA Format

Rubric

Information...

Answering all questions? - 15 pts

Comparing to your own definition? - 5 pts

Keeping research and handing it in with essay? - 2pts

Is Essay ...

Thorough and factual? - 10 pts

Correct Grammar and spelling? - 5 pts

Flowing in a cohesive manner? - 3 pts

Did You...

Cite your sources? - 5 pts

Hand in on time? - 5pts

Total: **50 PTS**