

HIST 3240 Term Paper

Guidelines:

You will be using a close examination of a primary source to investigate a topic in the history of Early Modern England.

Length of the paper: Approximately 15 pages double spaced, not including the bibliography.

A complete bibliography is expected, including especially those outside secondary sources (books and journal articles) which contributed to your understanding of the primary source.

Footnotes are also expected, along with direct citations, where appropriate. (Don't just tell me what you think, let me know that it's valid through your *specific* support.)

Your paper must have a clear thesis. This means formulating a clear question which your paper will answer.

It must be clear that you understand your primary source and have properly recognized its context and significance.

Choosing a source:

This may be the most difficult part of the project. You must find a source which you can use to shed light on a particular topic, person, or event in the history of Early Modern England. You must be able to find a *complete* copy of it in a language you can read. The source must fit the topics of this course. GET STARTED NOW.

Some typical questions to ask of Primary source material:

- * Who is the author?
- * What is the subject matter of the document?
- * Is the date significant?
- * Who is the audience?
- * What is the author "for" or "against," if anything? (Was the author taking a position in a controversy?)
- * What is the goal or objective of the document? (Why was it written/drawn/created?)
- * Does your primary material represent a particular genre of writing or art? (*e.g.*: Letter, journal, published account, broadside, "how-to" literature, "books of secrets," popular information, apologetic, polemic, report of an experiment, book or recipes, etc., etc.)
- * (If you have a collection of different documents:) How are the documents related to each other?

Significant Resources:

EEBO; Paul Halsall's Internet Medieval History Sourcebook; Eurodocs; Google Books; Google Scholar; Other links on Matthews' website.

Significant Secondary Source Resources:

Dictionary of National Biography; J-Stor; Project Muse; Mary Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*