

Final Research Paper Guidelines

- (1) **Pick a city.** With your teammates, spend some time thinking through which city you would like to explore for the remainder of the course. Cities to choose from:
 - a. Boston
 - b. Philadelphia
 - c. New York City
 - d. Cleveland
 - e. St. Louis
 - f. Chicago
 - g. Kansas City
 - h. San Francisco
 - i. Milwaukee
 - j. Los Angeles

- (2) **Provide a historical overview of the city.**
 - a. When was the city founded?
 - i. By whom?
 - ii. Under what political constraints?
 - iii. Provide a brief history of the founding of the city
 - iv. Briefly explain what day to day life of the city looked like upon its founding.

 - b. City's History pre 1920s:
 - i. Was this a machine city? Why or why not?
 - ii. Who were the political leaders and players?
 1. Name each of the mayors/leaders during this time and what they achieved for the city. What party did they associate with? Which segments of the population did they vouch for? How long was their tenure?
 - iii. What were the main trades?
 - iv. What was the immigrant breakdown of the city?
 1. How were immigrants incorporated or excluded from the city's politics during this time?
 - v. How much did the city grow in terms of trade and population during this era?

 - c. City's History between 1900s-1940s
 - i. Did this city experience reform politics?
 - ii. What were the major challenges and successes confronting the city in this time?
 - iii. Who were the political leaders and players?
 1. Name each of the mayors/leaders during this time and what they achieved for the city. What party did they associate with? Which segments of the population did they vouch for? How long was their tenure?
 - iv. What were the main trades?
 - v. What was the immigrant breakdown of the city?
 1. How were immigrants incorporated or excluded from the city's politics during this time?
 - vi. How much did the city grow in terms of trade and population during this era?

- (3) Provide three maps of the city: when it was first founded, to the mid 1950s, to present day.**
- Use Social Explorer to show us shifting demographic groups, population, and income
 - Interpret your maps: Explain the differences and shifts that have occurred in time in terms of population, demographic shifts, income, and inequality.
- (4) Provide an overview of the city's planning history**
- Who was the lead planner of the city?
 - To what extent was this city a segregated metropolis by design?
 - What were the economic influences on development?
 - How were the highways constructed in this city? To what extent did they segregate different (immigrant/racial/socioeconomic) communities? To what extent did they facilitate more integration between (immigrant/racial/socioeconomic) communities?
 - To what extent did the city's planners incorporate plans for transportation for the masses?
- (5) Provide a history of the suburbanization in your city.**
- How did the history of suburbanization in your city unfold?
 - Explain the factors that precipitated the development of suburbs – where was the fight for separation stemming from?
 - Who were the people who migrated to the suburbs? Why did they leave? Who were the people in the cities? Why did they stay?
 - Explain the differences in conditions between the suburbs and the urban cities.
 - Explain the planning considerations that the constructors of your city's suburbs had to consider.
 - Explain the patterns of socioeconomic and racial segregation in cities versus suburbs?
 - What factors were responsible for these patterns?
 - Provide a map of the suburban expansion to detail how much the city and its surrounding regions grew as a consequence of suburbanization.
 - Explain these outcomes.
- (6) Provide an overview of who governs, who participates, and who matters in city politics today.**
- How has your city changed in the last 50 years? (In terms of its economic, demographic, immigration, economic, political, and population outcomes).
 - Who participates in local elections today?
 - Which segments of the population are courted by political city leaders today?
 - To what extent do different communities in your city participate in politics today?
- (7) Provide an overview of the challenges facing the city today**
- What kinds of quality of life issues face the city today? (i.e. education, crime control, housing)
 - What are the demands of the citizenry with respect to these quality of life issues?
 - How are city leaders responding to the citizenry with respect to these issues?
 - How has immigration affected contemporary urban politics in your city today?