

Prompt:

From its conception, critics and admirers have been describing Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton: An American Musical* as revolutionary. While its setting makes this description an irresistible play on words, does the claim stand up to scrutiny? Does *Hamilton* challenge the status quo or does it reinforce traditional ideas?

Topic choices:

- The portrayal of America's birth and its founding fathers (history)
- The portrayal of women and men and their roles/expectations (gender)
- The portrayal of race and slavery (race)
- The portrayal of immigrants and America as an immigrant nation (immigrants)

Page-length requirements: Honors, 3-4 pages
CP, 2-3 pages

Historians' articles (include at least 1):

- "Can We Get Back to Politics? Please?" (history)
- "Race-Conscious Casting and the Erasure of the Black Past in *Hamilton*" (race)
- "The Greatest City in the World?" (race)
- "Remember . . . I'm Your Man" (gender)
- "*Hamilton* as Founders Chic: A Neo-Federalist, Antislavery Usable Past?" (history, race, immigrants, gender by a stretch)
- "Reckoning with America's Racial Past, Present, and Future in *Hamilton*" (race, gender by a stretch)
- "Who Tells Your Story? *Hamilton* as a People's History" (all)
- "*Hamilton*: A New American Civic Myth" (all)

Pre-writing Outline & Conference:

We will use the outline as a tool for conferencing about your paper. Sharing a Word doc with an adequate outline (10) and participating in a conference with me (5) will be worth **15 points**. I will offer some medium options (video chat, audio chat, notebook conversation) for conferencing during the week of 4/20.

Informal means that you do not have to use the formal outline elements (pattern of Roman, numerals, letters, numbers, indentation, etc.) in your outline. If you include the following in your outline doc and it is easy to read and follow, you will be set. Remember, an outline is a tool to manage ideas and organization in a rough form.

Include the following in your informal outline:

- A clear thesis that sets up your argument
- A series of claims you will make to develop your argument in the order you plan to make them
- How and where you will address the opposition
- What songs/quotations you will use and where you will place them
- What articles/quotations you will use and where you will place them

Rubric

The writer's argument shows a strong understanding of the content and ideas of the musical and the chosen topic. **/10 points**

- _____ includes effective references, including quotations, to 2 or more songs
- _____ includes effective references, including quotations, to at least 1 source (historians' articles)
- _____ develops points using relevant, thought-provoking arguments
- _____ develops points with depth and original insight
- _____ uses the opposition to expand and elaborate upon ideas
- _____ broadens to a meaningful conclusion that proceeds from the argument

The writer uses a clear organization pattern to support the reader's understanding. **/10 points**

- _____ provides a clear, direct thesis early in the essay to capture the writer's argument
- _____ uses CLEW paragraphing to establish and support clear claims
- _____ organizes ideas (paragraphs) to support the reader's progression through the main points
- _____ uses transitional phrases and words to guide the reader
- _____ addresses the opposition at key, appropriate places

The writer's argument shows a balanced development of the 3 persuasive appeals. **/10 points**

- _____ uses logical, clear explanations to support claims
- _____ avoids logical fallacies and assumptions/leaps in understanding
- _____ addresses the opposition to support the writer's logical, open-minded thought process
- _____ uses references from at least 1 source (historians' articles) to develop credibility
- _____ avoids biased, unethical language and claims to show sincerity and credibility
- _____ includes an original title, a hook and a persuasive closing to draw the audience's interest
- _____ uses limited, appropriate rhetorical and figurative devices to create emphasis, meaning, and engagement

The writer's final draft is a polished, edited product appropriate for an academic audience. **/10 points**

- _____ follows MLA style to format the document
- _____ follows MLA style and academic conventions to format, integrate, and cite quotations
- _____ creates an MLA-style works cited page
- _____ follows formal, academic writing conventions as suited to the assignment
- _____ uses fair, unbiased, academic word choice
- _____ edits to eliminate mechanical, usage, grammar, and spelling issues

Comments:

Total:

/40 points