

SIDDHARTHA

In-class essay

Be prepared to write a five-paragraph essay in class that answers the following question:

How does the book *Siddhartha* illustrate the major tenets of Indian thought and belief?

To prepare for this in-class essay, use your textbook (Chapter 4) and lecture material for additional evidence, but please do not consult any other sources (especially the Internet) outside this class for this particular assignment. Make sure that the essay has a thesis in the introduction. Next, support that thesis in three paragraphs using specific evidence (names, dates, people, places, events) from the book as well as the Bentley textbook and class notes. Each paragraph should include **analysis** of the evidence. Write a short conclusion (two to three sentences) that does more than just sum up the major points, but one that offers a meaningful observation about the book. Since this is an expository essay that provides factual information, rather than the author's opinion, the essay should be written without emotion and should avoid the use of personal pronouns (especially "I").

Essays will be graded according to the following general standards:

90–100% An A is reserved for outstanding work. This is a clearly written, well-organized essay. The introduction includes insightful historical context, and the thesis is original and interesting. The body of the essay supports the thesis with well-integrated and well-chosen evidence. The essay demonstrates that the student has a solid command of the course material.

80–89% This essay adequately addresses the assigned question or topic. The thesis may be weak or uninspired. Evidence is adequate yet lacks a complex analysis. There are some writing/organization problems.

70–79% This essay has a weak thesis and disregards the most important and obvious examples. It may also suffer from a combination of problems, including insufficient depth of analysis, poor grammar and organization, and a conversational or casual tone that is inappropriate in formal writing.

64–69% This essay lacks a thesis, and as a result, the evidence presented does not support an argument. The essay may also demonstrate that the student has some awareness of the material but cannot incorporate it into an argument that addresses the assigned question or topic. The essay might also demonstrate that the student lacks sufficient writing skills required in an introductory college course.

Below 64% This essay contains no thesis, little understanding and use of the course material, and insufficient or inappropriate evidence.

This assignment was originally presented as part of the article "Structuring the World History Survey: A First Timer Confesses" by Mary Jane Maxwell in *World History Connected*, volume 2, issue 2. The online journal *World History Connected* (<http://worldhistoryconnected.press.uiuc.edu>) is partially supported by the College Board and published in association with the History Cooperative (www.historycooperative.org). Copyright © 2004 Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois. Reproduced here with permission.