This semester has exposed you to numerous new ideas, including “Personal Memories / Journeys,” “Ethnic Identities and Sociological Models,” “Media,” and “Truths of the Past.”

This assignment requires you to use the skills you have developed in writing these papers and expand it in a research paper. Some of the topics include (but not limited to):

1. Angel Island / Chinese Exclusion Act
2. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
3. Japanese Internment Camp
4. The Devil's Highway/Caravan
5. Gender/Cultural Identity
6. Refugees (select specific group, time)
7. A social issue connected to Asians and Latinos (need instructor’s approval).

You may focus on a specific topic or, at most, two related topics. **Whatever topic(s) you choose, describe what you discovered and its connection to the present times or current events.** It will give your research a lot more substance.

You are required to look for outside sources, including two specific sources from two books. You should also look for published articles from journals, newspapers, and websites as basis for your research.

Your research should not just be a summary of information you have gathered from the readings; rather, you must use the information to further your own ideas about the topic of your research.

You have to follow the standard MLA method to cite your sources, and you should provide a Works Cited page.

This assignment should be around 8-10 pages, which is about 4000 words.

**Purpose:**

This assignment requires that you look at materials from the readings and integrate them into a cohesive essay. You should see how the essays you have gathered are related to the topic of your choice. Learn to break the topic down into various sub-themes and assign specific sources to discuss the themes. Also, direct the discussion back to the topic and expand on your commentaries in each developing paragraphs. Do not merely repeat your information and comment.

You have to compare and contrast the ideas in various essays and discuss how they have in some ways affected the way you think about your topic. Instead of abstract notions about your topic, you have to use the ideas you have gathered to show what is so important for your readers to know about this topic. It is imperative that you consider the ideas deeply.

**Organization:**

Your essay should have a clear thesis that embodies a brief discussion of the ideas you want to develop for the rest of the essay. Your introduction should show the conflict embedded in the topic you have chosen.

I. Provide a historical context that relates to current events.
II. Define and explain the various conflicts within the topic of your research.
III. Explain what you discovered and its connection to the present times or current events.
IV. Offer individual and collective solutions to your research issue.

The subsequent paragraphs [at least six—with textual supports from two sources] should have clear topic sentences, each addressing a dominant idea about the topic. You may use personal experiences and observations to further support your argument, but make sure it is relevant and connected to your topic.