

MODERN LATIN HISTORY  
HISTORY 362  
NEW YORK TIMES PAPER INSTRUCTIONS  
SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES

While the average American may pay little attention to news coming from Latin America, the US media has always given some space to events from that region. Historically, the major American newspapers, such as the New York Times, have assigned one or more reporters to cover Mexico and Latin America. For your paper in History 362, you will first need to select a year that interests you and one that would provoke notice in the United States. Since the media follows disasters, violence, politics, and major social upheavals, these would be the type of stories normally appearing in print. Your task in this paper is to describe and analyze what newsworthy events took place in a specific Latin America nation over a twelve-month period from January 1 to December 31. The range of topics are legion. Here is a list of just a few possibilities: Falklands, Elian Gonzalez case, the Sendero Luminoso attack on Japanese embassy in Lima, the Oscar Letelier assassination in Washington DC., Evita's trips, Pablo Escobar (Colombia), FARC hostages, Hezbollah in Argentina, Haile Selassie and Jamaica, Jonestown, Rafael Trujillo's assassination, Marielitos, and the Soccer War between El Salvador and Honduras. If at sea on this, talk with me about the proper year.

**NITTY GRITTY INFORMATION:**

You will need to find around thirty New York Times articles. These need to be spread out chronologically over the entire year, although in some cases they will be concentrated within several weeks or months. In other words, read and cite articles for the entire year. Your sources need to be cited according to Turabian. The Writing Center has a web site for those of you who have not taken History 297. See <http://www.wcu.edu/12102.asp> To place your information in context, you may want to consult the relevant sections of your textbook. If you do, be sure to cite chapter and verse. The paper should have a title page, eight to twelve pages of text, and either footnotes or endnotes.

**NEW YORK TIMES ON LINE**

Go to the WCU Web Page and select the Library link (#1). On the Library web page, choose the link to Databases (#2). On the Databases page select letter "N" and then New York Times Historical (#3 & 4). This will take you to a PROQUEST web page where you need to fill in the necessary information such as year, topic, and location within the Times (#5 & 6). Be creative in your searches and make sure that you cite at least 30 newspaper sources.

**RULES OF GOOD WRITING**

History papers usually read better in the past tense. Avoid wordiness, first person, abbreviations, contractions, and the passive voice. Consult a grammar book on rules concerning numbers, dates, and use of punctuation. Also, work hard on transitions and eliminating run-on sentences.