**Twentieth Century Research Paper Ideas**

1. Exploring towns that were bombed during World War II
2. Exploring the significance of code breaking in World War II
3. Exploring the role of the Berlin Wall during the Cold War
4. Exploring the significance of Anne Frank’s Diary
5. The role of the United States in the First World War. Was being involved inevitable?
6. The role of the United States in the Second World War. Was being involved inevitable?
7. How did the First World War shape politics in the United States?
8. The Galveston Hurricane of 1900 and its effect on how the US later viewed natural disasters.
9. The reasons and causes for the start of prohibition and its effects on subsequent US history.
10. The impact of Babe Ruth on how sport became a part of national consciousness.
11. Anarchy on Wall Street: an exposition of the causes and effects of the 1929 Wall Street Crash.
12. The advent of air conditioning, how 1925 changed the course of history.
13. How the Wright Brothers invented a machine that would be one of the fundamental reasons for US dominance of worldwide geopolitics.
14. The role of Jackie Robinson in breaking the color barrier in baseball.
15. The story of President Nixon, the only president to be impeached.
16. The Watergate Scandal and the role of the media.
17. Apollo 8 and the story of the first ever voyage to the moon.
18. Man lands on moon, a giant step for humanity. What effect did the moon landing have on technological advancement the world over?
19. The role of America in the Cold War.
20. The domestic effects of the US participation in the Cold War.
21. The most influential scientific advancements of the 20th century.
22. The events that led to the beginning of the World War I.
23. The exploration of space by different countries in the 20th century.
24. The gaining of independence by the Caribbean islands in the 1960’s.
25. The analysis of Nelson Mandela’s biography.
26. The assassination of John Kennedy in 1963 and its consequences.
27. The analysis of the events that led to the breakup of the USSR.
28. Positive and negative aspects of the Cold War.
29. The Vietnam War and the role of the US in it.
30. The analysis of Martin Luther King’s speeches.
31. The impact of the World War II on the world society.
32. The impeachment of President Nixon.
33. The San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906: What were the effects on the city, especially on the Chinese residents?
34. The Springfield Race Riot of 1908: What were the causes and/or effects?
35. Spanish-American War: What were the causes and/or effects?
36. The automobile: What was its impact on America’s economy and society?
37. Women’s suffrage movement: Who were the founders and what methods did they use? What were their successes and/or failures?
38. Red Scare of the 1920s: What were the causes? What was the impact on immigrants and/or radicals? What was the role of A. Mitchell Palmer and/or J. Edgar Hoover?
39. Sacco-Vanzetti case: What role did discrimination play in the trial and verdict?
40. Prohibition: What were the causes? What was its impact on the development of organized crime?
41. Harlem Renaissance: What were the causes? What were the effects?
42. Mississippi River Flood of 1927: How did it affect farmers? How did it impact racial issues in the South? What was the government response?
43. \*The Bonus Army: What prompted this protest? What was the outcome and impact?
44. Dust Bowl of the 1930s: What were the causes and/or effects?
45. Scottsboro Trial: What was the impact of racism on the outcome?
46. New Deal: What was its impact on the arts? What was its impact on farming? (Or choose another area)
47. Amelia Earhart: What happened to Amelia Earhart?
48. Pearl Harbor: Could it have been predicted? Would the U.S. have entered World War II without it?
49. World War II: What was the impact of propaganda and its use in the United States?
50. World War II: What was the significance of the Battle of Midway?
51. World War II: What were the reasons for the success of the D-Day invasion?
52. World War II: What contributions were made by Americans on the home front?
53. Japanese Internment: Why did it occur? How did it affect Japanese-Americans?
54. World War II: What were the contributions of women? How did it affect women’s employment?
55. World War II: What were the contributions of African Americans?
56. Manhattan Project: What were the reasons for/methods of secrecy?
57. Bombing of Hiroshima/Nagasaki: Was it necessary? Argue one side.
58. Truman’s containment policy: How was it implemented by the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and the Berlin Airlift?
59. Korean War: What caused the No Gun Ri massacre, and why was it kept secret?
60. Baby Boom: What was its impact on American society? (1950s-present)
61. Brown v. Board of Education case: What was its impact?
62. U-2 incident: What was the effect on U.S.-Soviet relations?
63. JFK and the Cuban missile crisis: What were the reasons for the U.S. response? Evaluate the consequences of JFK’s actions.
64. JFK and the Bay of Pigs invasion: Why did the U.S. sponsor it? Why did it fail?
65. JFK’s assassination: Who was responsible? Were the Warren commission’s findings accurate?
66. Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s: Evaluate the tactics and accomplishments.
67. March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom of 1963: What was its impact?
68. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination: Was James Earl Ray responsible?
69. My Lai Massacre: What were the causes? Who was responsible?
70. Kent State shootings: What were the contributing factors? Who was responsible?
71. Agent Orange: Evaluate its use during the Vietnam War and its effects.
72. 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago: What were the reasons for the protests, and why did violence erupt? Evaluate the city’s response and the impact on public opinion.
73. American Indian Movement (AIM) and the 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee: What motivated the takeover? What was its impact on relations between Native Americans and the government?
74. Watts riot: What were the causes? What were the effects on race relations in America?
75. Iran Hostage situation (1979): What were the causes? Evaluate President Carter’s handling of the situation.
76. Iran-Contra scandal: Who was really responsible?
77. Women in the military: What significant contributions did they make? How have they overcome discrimination? Should women serve in combat positions?