

UNIT 5 ESSAY

Write an essay in response to the proposition below. Obviously, use the Nash textbook and your class notes for the background (you do not have to footnote material from the textbook or classes). You **must** integrate at least **two secondary** readings assigned in Unit 5 in your response. In addition, you must find **one relevant primary source** (cartoons, paintings, etc. count as a primary source) from the Unit 5 Assignment Sheet, a primary documents book, or a legitimate website that houses primary sources. A **particularly strong response** will engage with the information and interpretations put forth by Henretta, Licht, Johnson, Keyssar, Wilentz, Howe or the other secondary readings from the unit (including the optional ones). Be sure to use concrete **historical evidence** to substantiate your **generalizations** and to illustrate your answer.

Your essay should be no fewer than **four** pages with **margins** of 1 inch on all sides and type in a standard (preferably Times Roman) 12-point font. As always, remember that **clarity, brevity, and coherent organization** as well as proper citation format and **not over-quoting** from the secondary literature are essential in constructing a successful response. **I will not look favorably upon anyone who fails to pay heed to the items on the checklist.**

I also want your essay to include a cover page (give me sufficient space to write comments). On that page should be:

- Title of essay
- Your name
- Section
- Date

The essay is due on Thursday, February 16th in the appropriate basket in my office by the end of Ad Hoc.

Proposition

“The phrase ‘the Age of Jackson’ better captures the underlying tenor of the first half of the 19th century than the phrase ‘the Era of the Common Man’ or the phrase ‘the Market Revolution.’” ASSESS THE VALIDITY OF THIS STATEMENT.

Warning: You **must** engage all **three** facets of the proposition.

See the next page for the Essay Checklist

Essay Checklist:

- 1) Does the paper have an **introduction** that **engages** the reader, a **thesis statement**, and a brief “**road map**” to the rest of your discussion?
- 2) Consistently ask yourself: “What’s the essay’s thesis? Is it precise? Does it make sense?”
- 3) Does each paragraph **support** your thesis or discuss counterevidence that might potentially undermine your thesis?
- 4) Have you concretely and judiciously integrated the appropriate number of **primary and secondary readings** from the unit into your essay?
- 5) Have you avoided citing websites that are not scholarly in nature and, thus, not verifiable as to the information they put forward—this includes **Wikipedia**.
- 6) Have you used quotations appropriately?
 - a. Generally **do not** quote from the secondary literature but instead put the quotation in your own words.
 - b. Refrain from using large block quotations unless you are going to specifically analyze the passage.
 - c. If you do choose to quote, then identify who it was who wrote or said the words you have chosen to quote
- 7) Does the essay have a conclusion that does more than merely restate the thesis? If not, think about what would make for an appropriate conclusion.
- 8) Have you appropriately **cited** the sources you used and placed the citations as either **endnotes** or **footnotes** according to the *Chicago Manual of Style*?
- 9) Have you used a **standard font 12-point font**?
- 10) Do you have **one-inch margins** all around?
- 11) Is your essay **double-spaced**?
- 12) Have you included page **numbers**?
- 13) Have you avoided using the **passive** voice?
- 14) Have you avoided the **first person plural**—that is “we,” “our,” and “us.”
- 15) Have you found appropriate **replacement words** for “**said**” and “**felt**.”
- 16) Have you written the essay in the **correct tense** and been consistent in your use of tense?
- 17) Have you refrained from using **colloquial** language and too many **contractions**?
- 18) Have you read your essay **aloud** and corrected any sentences that were difficult to speak?
- 19) Have you **proofread** the final draft of your essay at least **4 times**?
- 20) Have included a **cover page**?
- 21) Have you **stapled** your essay?