

JAPAN DURING WORLD WAR II

A HISTORY WORKSHOP

PEER REVIEW

DUE: NOV. 6, 2015

OVERVIEW

You will read and provide feedback on the first draft of one of your colleague's research papers. The review will be conducted through the workflow management system of Japan History Lab, but you must also submit a copy of your review to me in hard copy, or via e-mail (.doc or .docx). In no more than four double-spaced pages (approx. 1000 words) you will evaluate the argument and evidence, fit with the chosen theme, and clarity of your colleague's paper. These reviews will not be blind, so keep it respectful, while making a concise summary of the work and providing clear and effective suggestions for improvement. It is expected that you will familiarize yourself with the author's sources and subject matter to the extent that you can provide an informed opinion of the paper's contribution.

SUBMISSION

1. Submit the text of your review on paper, or via e-mail (.doc or .docx format), on or before the due date.
 - i. Include a title page with your name, student number, and title of the article you will review.
 - ii. Format your paper according to the History Department Style Guide, (uvic.ca/humanities/history/assets/docs/styleguide.pdf).
2. Paste the text of your review in the article's 'Body' field on Japan History Lab.
See Lab 03 Instructions (japanhistorylab.ca/sites/default/files/Lab03_Instructions.pdf) for help in editing managing the workflow of articles.

GRADING

6pts Evaluation of the fit with the theme
6pts Effectiveness of suggestions for improvement
3pts Clarity, Style and formatting

Because of the time sensitive nature of this project, late assignments will be penalized heavily. Each day late will result in a penalty of one third of a letter grade (ie. A to A- to B+...). Assignments handed in more than a week late will receive a grade of zero.

HOW TO EVALUATE 'FIT WITH THE THEME'

One of the purposes of this assignment is to further our collective knowledge and understanding of the theme of Japan History Lab: Everyday Life in Time of War. While writing your review, you will further this knowledge by articulating what you think this theme means in the context of the article under review. Build on our in class discussions, readings and your own research to explain what this theme means to you, and why it is important. From this base you can evaluate how well your colleague's paper contributes to this theme, and offer them suggestions for improving their work. Take into the way your colleague has explained the theme, and try to combine and build upon their ideas rather than simply critiquing them.

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Peer Review Assignment...2

HOW TO MAKE EFFECTIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Try to write from the perspective of a helpful friend when writing your reviews. The idea of the exercises is not to point out the mistakes of others, but to improve the quality of everyone's work and share ideas about how the papers can fit together as a coherent whole. If you are unfamiliar with writing reviews of others work take a look in the book review section of an academic journal such as *The Journal of Japanese Studies* or *Monumenta Nipponica* to get an idea of the how to frame your review.

Helpful suggestions include but are not limited to suggesting sources that your colleague has not considered, suggesting more effective ways to structure the paper, offering a more focused or concise thesis statement, pointing out inconsistencies in reasoning or anachronisms, outlining alternative arguments or meta-narratives that might challenge or complicate the argument, or rephrasing awkward writing.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR REVIEW ON JAPAN HISTORY LAB

1. Visit the Japan History Lab Article Index and choose an article to review (First come, first served)
2. Click the Edit tab and claim the article by adding the following text to the article title [Under Review by: Your name]. Save the article immediately.
3. Copy the body text of the article into a word document, or other text editor.
4. Read the article carefully and think about it.
5. Read the article again while fixing spelling, grammatical and style errors. You can insert comments in the text as well. [Put them inside square brackets like this].
6. Write your review at the top of the same document based on the criteria above. This is the document you will hand in to me.
7. When your review is complete, paste the text of your review plus your corrected and commented version into the body section of the article.

Paste right over the original text. Drupal will save a copy of the earlier revision.

8. Remove the under review text from the title and save the article. Change the workflow state to "Reviewed" and leave a workflow comment, including your name.

E-mail me if you have any questions or run into trouble: Admin@japanhistorylab.ca