CRHS SOCIAL STUDIES RUBRIC FOR THESIS PAPERS

	DISTINGUISHED	PROFICIENT	LIMITED	UNSATISFACTORY
RESEARCH & CONTENT				
Information gathering & resources	Finds a wide variety of useful resources; includes little-known sources or uses unique data gathering techniques	Uses effective information gathering techniques and a sufficient variety of resources for the task	Uses limited and/or unvaried resources	Insufficient sources to complete the task; sources limited to encyclopedias, etc.,
Information Processing	Analyzes information in detail, with accuracy and insight, to determine credibility, relevance	Accurately determines whether information is credible and relevant to task	Makes some significant errors in determining whether information is credible and relevant to task	Makes little attempt to determine, or totally misjudges, relevance and credibility
ARGUMENT				
Thesis (T) and Overall Concept (C)	T is sharply focused; C is significant, insightful, intriguing	T is clear, provides direction for paper; C is interesting, meets task criteria	T is unclear, disconnected and/or does not map out paper; C lacks appropriate depth for task	T is absent or presents nothing to be proven; C is simplistic
Support	Support is accurate, detailed, comprehensive, and convincing	Support is clear, accurate, and sufficient for argument points	Support is unconvincing; some inaccuracies or irrelevancies	Supporting evidence is vague, missing, or inaccurate
Integration	Supporting evidence is smoothly woven into argument; direct quotation is used sparingly	Supporting evidence is clearly and explicitly tied to argument; quotation used appropriately	Tie of evidence to argument may be implicit, but is not clearly established	Relationship between evidence and argument not apparent
Introduction (I) & Conclusion (C)	Lead-in is sophisticated with rich background; C extends, connects, comments on topics with insight	I is adequate and appropriate to task; C is purposeful and perceptive	I is simplistic; C summarizes previously stated information	I is ineffective or inappropriate; C is absent, incomplete, unfocused
ORGANIZATION				
Overall Structure	Structure enhances argument; topics flow; transitions are elegant and varied	Demonstrates clear and effective plan; transitions are clear and functional	Structure is inconsistent or ineffective; transitions are abrupt or mechanical	Structure is absent; transitions are unclear
Topic Sentences and Paragraph Focus	Topic S's enrich thesis; paragraphs focus sharply on topic	Topic S's clearly relate to thesis; paragraphs stay on topic	Relationship of topic S's to thesis is unclear; paragraphs wander	Topic S's missing; paragraphs lack focus
EXPRESSION				
Vocabulary	Varied and Sophisticated	Appropriate to task	Inconsistent	Limited, monotonous, inappropriate, slangish
Voice	Distinctive and compelling	Clear and authentic; appropriate to task	Mechanical, formulaic, unvarying, "overwritten", repetitive	Unclear, inauthentic, inappropriate to task or audience
Mechanics	Essentially error-free	Errors are present but do not interfere with meaning	Errors are excessive or distracting	Errors block meaning
Citation	Bibliography is in correct format and virtually error-free; internal citations enhance meaning	Bibliography is in correct format; internal citation is sufficient	Bibliography is inconsistent; internal citation is inadequate	Bibliography is insufficient; internal citation is absent