

TAH Module: Narrative Overview & Annotated Primary Sources Rubric

Rating Scale: 1-Does Not Follow the Assignment 2-Unacceptable 3-Acceptable 4-Exemplary

Element	Criteria	Score	Comments
Introduction	Identifies lesson topic, overall goal, and rationale; where it would fit in a class following the Frameworks; and what information students should already have covered		
Narrative Overview	Places the topic into its relevant historical context		
	Conveys a clear sense of the chronology of major events and identifies key people, places, etc.		
	Discusses short- and long-term historical consequences		
Selection of Secondary Sources	Credibility of sources is certain—books are published by a university or other reputable scholarly press; articles are from peer-reviewed journals		
Selection of Primary Sources	Enable nuanced study of topic; appeal to diverse learners, and are appropriate to stated audience		
Annotation	Describes the authors and the immediate circumstances under which each source was created		
	Places each source into its relevant historical context		
	Poses specific questions for the reader to consider		
Grammar & Formatting	Writing is free of sentence-level errors, formatting errors, and stylistic problems; sources are properly cited		

Three structures to avoid in composing the narrative overview:

1. “And then” writing, or chronological structure. Writers tell what happens between time point A and time point B without focus, selection, pacing, or tension. Writers produce “and then” structures whenever they resort to stringing details on a chronological frame. The reader is generally left wondering, “so what’s your point?”
2. “All about” writing, or encyclopedic order. Writers do not arrange information so as to make and support an argument, but rather simply try to say a little bit of everything about a topic. Such writing tends to be heavy on description, light on analysis. Readers are generally left wondering, “so what?”
3. Related to “all about” writing is “data dump” writing. Writers take all the data they have gathered about a topic and dump it, as it were, on the reader’s desk. Whereas both “and then” writing and “all about” writing have discernible organizational plans—chronological and encyclopedic—“data dump” writing’s structure is random. Writers are usually overwhelmed with information and uncertain what to do with it. So are the readers of such writing.