

Historical Research & Academic Writing

A 20-Session Programme for The Concord Review Submission

Develop a historical question, investigate the evidence and write an independent English research paper.

Rolling enrolment. 12 weeks, 20 sessions of 90 minutes. Session frequency varies by stage; independent research and writing continue between sessions.

Stage and Progression	No.	Session Topic	Core Content	Student Deliverable
Stage 1 Research & Writing Foundations 2 weeks / 4 sessions Learn to read research, evaluate sources and write evidence-based analysis. Stage deliverable: Foundation portfolio	1	What Is Historical Research?	Connect historical questions, sources and arguments; assess research and writing skills.	Interest map and a 300-word diagnostic analysis
	2	How Published Essays Work	Analyse a published essay's question, structure, evidence, conclusion and references.	Completed essay analysis and reading plan
	3	Finding and Evaluating Sources	Distinguish primary and secondary sources; examine context, perspective and reliability.	Source log and three source-evaluation records
	4	Writing Historical Analysis	Link claims, evidence and reasoning; practise quotation, paraphrase and citation.	Two analytical paragraphs with source citations
Stage 2 Topic Development & Research Design 2 weeks / 4 sessions Turn an interest into a focused, feasible historical question and research plan. Stage deliverable: Research proposal and detailed outline	5	Choosing a Researchable Topic	Define period, place and scope; assess significance and access to relevant sources.	Two topic briefs and a feasibility comparison
	6	Finding a Scholarly Debate	Compare historians' explanations and identify a precise question worth investigating.	Research question and comparison of three interpretations
	7	Building the Evidence Base	Collect and cross-check sources; connect textual or numerical evidence to claims.	Annotated bibliography and claim-evidence matrix
	8	Research Proposal Workshop	Defend the topic, test a working thesis and organise the proposed argument.	500-800-word proposal and detailed essay outline
Stage 3 Argument Development & First Draft 4 weeks / 6 sessions Build an argument from evidence and develop it into a complete manuscript. Stage deliverable: Complete first draft with endnotes and bibliography	9	Developing the Central Argument	Refine the thesis and assign a distinct analytical purpose to each section.	Thesis statement, section plan and evidence map
	10	Drafting I: Context and Explanation	Select essential context and develop the first explanation of causes or change.	First body section with endnotes
	11	Drafting II: Evidence and Comparison	Analyse texts, events or data; explain how comparisons support the argument.	Second body section with endnotes
	12	Drafting III: Alternative Explanations	Address counterevidence, compare rival explanations and qualify claims.	Remaining body sections and counterargument analysis
	13	Writing the Introduction and Conclusion	Establish the question and scholarly context; explain findings and significance.	Draft introduction and conclusion
	14	Completing the First Draft	Integrate sections and check argument, transitions, endnotes and bibliography.	Complete first draft and self-review checklist
Stage 4 Research Refinement & Final Manuscript 4 weeks / 6 sessions Strengthen the explanation, refine the writing and prepare the final submission. Stage deliverable: Final manuscript and submission package	15	Full-Manuscript Review I: Structure	Evaluate the thesis, sequence and gaps; prioritise substantial revisions.	Annotated draft, written feedback and revision plan
	16	Deepening the Research	Resolve evidence gaps, corroborate sources and rewrite weak analytical sections.	Updated evidence matrix and rewritten sections
	17	Full-Manuscript Review II: Interpretation	Test competing explanations; clarify the contribution and limits of the findings.	Revised manuscript, written feedback and response log
	18	Refining Academic English	Improve paragraph focus, transitions, precision, concision and readability.	Language-edited manuscript
	19	Full-Manuscript Review III: Accuracy	Audit key facts, quotations and citations; check consistency and presentation.	Written feedback, verified source log and final candidate
	20	Final Defence and Submission Preparation	Explain the findings, complete final corrections and review submission requirements.	Final Word manuscript, word count and submission checklist

What Students Complete and Receive

One complete English research paper. An independently written final Word manuscript with a clear thesis, sustained analysis, Chicago-style endnotes and a bibliography. Planning range: 6,000-8,000 words of main text, plus endnotes and bibliography; length is agreed to suit the topic.

One research portfolio. A 500-800-word proposal, detailed outline, annotated bibliography of primary and secondary sources, source-evaluation records and a claim-evidence matrix.

Ten published-essay analyses. Ten completed analysis sheets covering the research question, argument, evidence, structure, conclusion, notes and bibliography. Full-essay reading runs alongside the student's own research.

One revision portfolio. The first draft, substantive revisions and final manuscript; three rounds of written full-manuscript feedback; and a response log documenting how the student addressed feedback.

One submission package. The final .docx file, confirmed word count, completed format and citation checklist, and guidance on the relevant submission process and issue deadline.

For secondary-school students with an interest in history and established English reading and writing skills. Allow 8-10 hours of independent work per week, with additional time during intensive drafting and revision.

Students complete their own research and writing. The programme develops publication competitiveness; editorial acceptance is determined independently by The Concord Review.