**Comparison Paper**

You will be writing a **3-page** paper comparing three sources related to the Barrow Gang.

**Overview:**

Choose **three** of the assigned sources and compare how these sources tell the story of the Barrow Gang. Consider how the rhetorical situation changes for each source and how it, in turn, impacts the way that the Barrow Gang is presented. Your paper should have a clear, original thesis statement. You can argue, for example, that one source is more reliable than another, or that one is more compelling, or that both sources exemplify why all historical sources must be taken with a grain of salt.

Some useful questions to ask as you plan out your paper:

- What is this source trying to make me believe about the Barrow Gang?

- How does the genre of this source affect the story it tells about the Barrow Gang?

- Which details does this source focus on?

- Which details does this source overlook?

**Sources:**

You can use the 1967 movie, any of the assigned readings, and any of the Barrow Gang sources shared in class. You are not required or expected to conduct additional research or consult any sources about the Barrow Gang other than the course readings.

Examples of some sources you might choose:

-the 1967 movie, *Bonnie and Clyde*, directed by Arthur Penn

-Bonnie Parker’s poem, “The Trail’s End”

-W.D. Jones’s article in *Playboy*

-the 1934 documentary, *The Retribution of Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker*

Do not use:

-Frank Hamer’s *I’m Frank Hamer* (because it was not an assigned reading or shared in class)

-Simpson’s “A Bienville Parish Saga” (because it’s the most unbiased source and therefore the most difficult to analyze)

-the 2013 movie (because it was not an assigned reading or shared in class)

**Format:**

You should organize your paper in order to present your ideas as persuasively and logically as possible. Although this paper does not need to be structured with 3 main body paragraphs, you will need to have an introductory paragraph that introduces your thesis, multiple body paragraphs that focus on presenting evidence to support your thesis, and a concluding paragraph that summarizes your argument. Your paper should be written in a formal academic tone and should contain no significant grammatical or mechanical errors.

**Grading Scheme:**

**An A paper (90-100)** contains a strong, well-supported thesis statement, indicates the significance of each source’s rhetorical situation, and demonstrates original, critical thought. The writing style is strong (avoiding unnecessary repetition, wordiness, excessive use of “to be” verb, etc). It has smooth transitions between ideas, sentences, and paragraphs. There are no significant mechanical errors.

**A B paper (80-89)** contains an original thesis statement and indicates limited familiarity with each source’s rhetorical situation. Analysis is not as developed as in an A paper.There is some awareness of writing style techniques and there are a few mechanical errors.

**A C paper (70-79)** does not consider the rhetorical situation critically or contain a strong thesis statement. Observations are generalized rather than analytical. The writing style has not been developed and there are significant mechanical errors.

**A failing paper (69 and lower)** does not utilize appropriate sources, contains minimal or no awareness of the rhetorical situation, is incoherent, and contains numerous mechanical errors.