

## History 230, American Civil War: Approved General Topics

Your research paper must address one of these general topics. Then you will use course information and the class discussion to narrow down your topic and to develop a thesis. The following general topics from 1848 to 1877 are acceptable:

- Biographical [the easiest]; includes flawed & charismatic leaders; as well as focus groups such as women, freedmen, prisoners, doctors, nurses, engineers, inventors, business people, politicians, specific regiments, etc.
- Military Engagements [any major engagement...approximately 250]
- Technical, Munitions & Scientific Developments
- Medical, Surgical, Nursing, Health, and Diet Issues
- Economics, Wartime Funding & Commerce/Industry
- Political Parties, Causes, Major Legislation & Events
- Home Front, Social, Religious & Educational Issues
- Special locations, a state history thru the war years; a fort; or a city
- Art (including military art), Literature, Music, maps and mapping--all of the period and related to the war

The following general topics are not allowed:

- No "large" topics such as the "causes of the Civil War"; or why the "South lost".
- No "small" topics such as the Battle of Aiken.
- No topics focused on re-enactments.
- No topics related to tours, national parks, museums and such.
- No topics on weather events except with permission.
- No family histories or genealogies except with permission.
- Nothing biographical on Abraham Lincoln, although topics covering his decisions, actions, etc are acceptable.
- No topics outside the time frame (1848-1877) or unrelated to the Civil War.