

Documenting Your Experiences: ***Creating a Primary Source + Past-Present Analysis***

For our final project, you will create a primary source and write a 4–5-page analysis of disease past and present.

Your written piece should be 4-5 pages, double-space, 12pt font, TNR, 1-inch margins. Remember to cite following the notes-bibliography format of the Chicago Manual of Style.

Remember this assignment asks you to document your experiences by creating a primary source that future historians and students may use to better understand the COVID-19 pandemic—and to do something creative and reflective. You may create a textual source, but don't limit yourself to text (remember there are various other types of primary sources). Think of this assignment in the vein of an *un-essay*—an assignment that gives students a way to creatively interact with class themes and learning outcomes, where *students choose the medium* in which they feel they can best present their ideas. Your experiences will also become a part of documenting the pandemic for future generations, as we donate them to [A Journal of the Plague Year](#), an archive created to document experiences of the pandemic across the globe.

1. Choose How you Present your Experiences

You are free to present your experience how you would like. Think about your skills, ways of expression, even career goals: what will be useful for you? Do you like writing? Are you a musician, an artist, or a computer programming extraordinaire? Do you want to be a teacher, museum curator, or documentary filmmaker? Any of these could influence what you decide to do. What you produce and how you present it are entirely up to you. (Some of these are very ambitious, so remember these are just here for inspiration.)

Some examples:

- Journal entries
- Sketches, photography, or painting
- Drawing a comic
- Oral history interviews with friends and family
- Poetry or Music
- Write a play
- Short stories (real or imaginary)
- Recording Audio or video log
- Fiber arts- knitting, cross-stich, weaving
- A series of BuzzFeed style listicles
- Create a board game
- Lesson plans for different educational levels

- Mixed media art

2. **Write a 4-5 page Reflection & Past-Present Analysis:**

- a. *Reflection:* How is this a primary source that best express your experiences during the pandemic?
 - b. *Analysis:* Pair your original source with two secondary sources from our course that dealt with some aspect of public health, disease, or epidemics in history, *AND* with one other source of your choosing from the *Journal of the Plague Year* archive. For this part of your paper, you will use these sources to analyze what they tell us about our understandings of the past and the present.
 - i. Analyze your chosen secondary sources on public health and world history, and what they reveal to us about health and disease in the past; think about and reflect on issues such as racial and class disparities in health outcomes, contestations over public health measures, government reactions to epidemic disease, the search for scapegoats, competing ways of framing disease, structural violence, etc.
 - ii. Analyze your own source. What do you think future researchers and students could learn from a source like this and why is it important?
 - iii. Analyze a different perspective of the pandemic, using the [Journal of the Plague Year archive](#) choose your last source. Pretend you're a historian 50 years from now, and that you're researching Covid-19. Think of a topic related to the pandemic that you'd like to learn more about, and from a perspective different than your own. This could mean searching for hashtags or keywords or using the map to research sources on the pandemic from different areas of the world.
3. **Share your source with A Journal of the Plague Year:** Upload a picture, video, or audio clip of your source and relevant info about it to A Journal of the Plague Year's digital archive via the "[Share Your Story](#)" page. Include the tag #CSUCIHIST301 in the hashtag field. You do not have to upload your reflective statement (unless you feel this will provide future generations valuable info on interpreting your source). By documenting and sharing your experiences with the archive, you will be providing future researchers across the globe with a better picture of the effects of the pandemic.

Uploading your primary source to the archive is mandatory. I do not want you to censor yourself in this opportunity to reflect upon and process our current moment, so if you create something that you feel is too personal, remember that you may donate it anonymously. After you share your work w/ the archive, include a screenshot of your submission when you upload your project to Canvas.

4. **Turn your project in online:** upload a picture, video, or audio clip of your work + your 4–5-page reflection on your source to the assignment link on Canvas + screenshot of submission to the archive. (You can also embed your picture or video in an MS Word doc w your explanation).

Due December 9th at 11:59 pm on Canvas.