

Writing Assignment 1 Parameters and Standards

Topic: Compose a college level essay in which you explore *two* (2) religious holidays, festivals, or celebrations in *India* as expressed in at least *two* (2) different religions. For help getting started, I suggest exploring the following website: <http://www.festivalsofindia.in/religions/>. **Be sure to pay attention to all of the details below.**

Quick View Checklist (all of this is discussed in greater depth in the Parameters section that follows):

- Select only *two* (2) different religion inspired holidays, festivals, or celebrations found in India.
- Each of the *two* (2) selections represents a different religion being practiced in *India*.
- Each selection is discussed in terms of religious practice and belief.
- Research sources are academic, scholarly, or primary sources (scriptures or doctrines of the religion).
- Include a Modern Language Association (MLA) formatted bibliography of at least *three* (3) sources.
- Quotes are limited to *primary source materials only* and are no more than 10% of the paper content.
- The structure is that of a standard college essay.
- Submission is at least 600 words (bibliographies are not a part of the word count).
- Contains appropriate sentence and paragraph formats, proper grammar, and correct spelling and punctuation.
- Demonstrates original writing skills.
- Submission is provided in the Writing Assignment 1 dropbox by the due date posted in the Time Schedule.

Parameters: Here are the complete parameters of this research assignment:

EVENTS - You will discuss *two* different religion inspired holidays, festivals, or celebrations found in present day *India*.

RELIGIONS - The holidays, festivals, or celebrations discussed represent observances from *two* different religions being practiced in India today. This means that you cannot provide two examples from a single religion. Rather, you should try to provide an exploration of different religious traditions. In some cases, you will find events are observed by multiple religions. When this happens, you can identify all that participate in the holiday, but your content conversation should be focused on *one specific religion*. India is a very religiously diverse country, so you are welcome to explore religions we have studied, or those we have not. Just be sure that you are focusing on how the holiday, festival, or celebration is observed in *India*.

CONTENT - You should describe the various activities associated with each, the religion responsible, and the beliefs behind them. Some things to consider: Are there specific activities, props, and/or dietary aspects associated with the event? To what extent do the people participate? Are the celebrations publically observed or isolated in the religious communities? Have they become secularized at all? How are the events different in India versus Western cultures? The idea here is that you have demonstrated extensive cross-cultural knowledge through a description of Indian culture with *two* (2) specific examples of celebrations associated with *two* (2) different religious traditions. Deductions of up to 30 points will be made for errors related to Events, Religions, and Content.

RESEARCH - You are expected to do academic research for this assignment. **This is not an opinion paper, it is a research paper.** To that end, consult and cite *multiple sources (at least 3)* to illustrate depth of research. *These academic or scholarly sources should be peer-reviewed journal articles or books (library resources), primary sources (sacred literature and official religious documents), or authorized publications of recognized religious organizations.* The research sources consulted are to be provided in a Bibliography conforming to the MLA (Modern Language Association) format. visit: spcollege.libguides.com/content.php?pid=98920&sid=742314 for more information about the

MLA format. For useful research information, see: spcollege.libguides.com/world_religions. There will be deductions of up to 10 points for errors in this category.

QUOTING - Quotes are limited to *primary source materials only* (such as a verse from sacred literature) and should constitute no more than 10% of the paper content. In other words, quotes can only come from religious scriptures or documents, and should be used sparingly. You need to develop the ability to take the information that you would quote and express it in your own words as this is how to demonstrate understanding. Any quotes will need to have internal documentation done to MLA standards: owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/. Deductions will be assessed based upon the severity of the errors, with the points coming out of the “subject and content” section above.

STRUCTURE - This paper should be done in a traditional essay format: Introduction paragraph, two to three content paragraphs, a conclusion paragraph, and then a bibliography of sources consulted.

WORD COUNT - Your submission is required to be a **minimum of 600 words**, but no more than 1200 words (Bibliographies do not count as a part of the word count). Submissions larger than 1200 words or fewer than 600 words *will receive no points*. A college paper needs to demonstrate the skill of being thorough, yet concise.

ACADEMIC WRITING - Your submission is expected to conform to academic writing standards (i.e., demonstrate the use of proper sentence and paragraph formats, proper grammar, and correct spelling and punctuation). Up to 20 points will be deducted for these errors based upon their frequency and severity.

ORIGINAL WRITING - Your paper is to demonstrate original writing (see this conversation in the Syllabus). In short, do not use the words of another as *this is considered plagiarism and will result in a failing grade and possible honor code disciplinary action*: <https://www.spcollege.edu/academichonesty/>.

DUE - The critique is due by the date posted in the calendar. Any assignment submitted late for any reason is subject to a **5 point per business day late deduction**, up to an assignment maximum of 30 points deducted. After the paper has been graded based on the categories above, the late points will be deducted.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS - Students are required to submit the paper electronically to the appropriate dropbox in MyCourses. Submissions to this dropbox are subjected to an originality check through TurnItIn, a website that scans papers for signs of plagiarism and issues a report to the student and instructor. Please note that the allowed file types are: MS Word, WordPerfect, Postscript, Acrobat PDF, HTML, RTF and plain text. No other file types are accepted. I will grade and provide a response to you within seven to ten days of the assignment due date.