
***1619 Project* Final Project** **Crafting Your Own New Origin Story**

In your final assessment for this unit, create a chapter for [*The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*](#) that answers the following questions:

- In what ways do you see African resistance today in the Americas?
- What is the legacy of Africans and their descendants in the Americas?

Keep in mind *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*'s structure: historical fact, craft or art, a photograph and essay. Reference the book if you get stuck.

Working Chapter Title

Historical Fact

Poem or Art Ideas (Painting, Drawing, Poetry)

Photograph

Essay working thesis

Evidence

Does your evidence prove your thesis? If not, you can either revise your thesis statement or your evidence.

Introduction:

Now that you have your evidence, craft your introduction. Take a look at Nikole Hannah-Jones's introduction. Notice that she starts with a personal story about her father and the United States flag. If you can, use a personal story or mine your family's experiences. If neither of those work, use one of the stories that we have learned about in this unit.

Conclusion:

Reread Hannah-Jones's conclusion on page 36 (the final four paragraphs of the essay.) Notice that she begins with a question and returns to her own personal story circling back to her introduction and her father's United States flag. Use this as a model to create your own conclusion or do something dramatically different. Other conclusions might include: look to the future, restate and emphasize your thesis, or a call to action.

Final Project Criteria and Overview

Using the first chapter of *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* as a model, put your final project together.

Criteria for your project

1. **Historical Fact:** your historical fact is important, relevant, and gets the reader interested in learning more about your chapter.
2. **Craft or Art:** your poem or art work adds depth, complexity, and insights to your historical fact. The reader now understands more about why your historical fact is important.
3. **Photograph:** your photograph *humanizes* the story. It makes the reader understand that we aren't talking about anything abstract; we are talking about real human beings and their experiences.
4. **Essay:** your essay should include the following important components:
 - a. **Thesis Statement** — a strong thesis provides a roadmap by stating what the essay will prove. Thesis statements can be directly stated or implied, but they typically are found in the first paragraph. Write your thesis statement in the space below and highlight it in your essay.
 - b. **Introduction** — What kind of introduction did you use? Does it grab the reader's attention and make them want to keep reading? Consider the following options to craft a compelling introduction:
 - i. Mini-story
 - ii. Quotation
 - iii. Bold Statement
 - c. **Evidence** — Back up your thesis with specific evidence. Does your evidence thoroughly and completely support your thesis statement? Forms of evidence can include:
 - Personal Experiences
 - Experiences of Others
 - Quotations
 - Facts and statistics
 - d. **Conclusion**— What kind of conclusion did you use? Is it satisfying? Your conclusion could:
 - Circle back
 - Look to the Future
 - Be a Call to Action
 - Restate and emphasize thesis
 - e. **Transitions** — Keep your essay moving and set the reader up for what is to follow. Look at the transitions (the beginning of her paragraphs) that Hannah-Jones uses as examples.