



***THE LONG, BITTER
TRAIL: ANDREW
JACKSON AND THE
INDIANS***
A RESPONSE ESSAY

DUE DATE: Tuesday, April 24—hard-copy printout to be handed to me at the beginning of class, with a printout of the article stapled to your paper. Papers will *not* be accepted by email.

LENGTH: Roughly four-to-five pages of double-spaced, Times New Roman twelve-point font with one-inch margins

THE ASSIGNMENT: Develop and write a response to *one* of three essay prompts below. Make sure that your answer uses evidence from the book to support your answer to the questions, and that your essay responds to *each* component of the question.

1. What different methods did individuals and local, state, and federal governments use to accomplish Indian removal? What justifications did whites use to defend the removals? Do you think the methods and reasons offered had any legal or moral validity? Why or why not?
2. The Indian removals generated conflicts not only between whites and Native Americans, but between different governmental bodies, competing groups of whites, and among Indians themselves. Describe the nature of the conflicts between each of these groups, and then answer the following questions: Why were the Indian removals so divisive, causing fierce struggles between almost every party involved with them? How were they ultimately resolved?
3. What strategies did Native Americans use to resist removal policies of the U.S. and state governments? How divisions emerged among Native Americans over the best way to resist? How did state and federal governments exacerbate dissension among Native American groups? What were the long-term effects of removal policies on Native American communities?

How Your Paper Will Be Evaluated

- **Clarity and Strength of Answer:** Your essay should provide a clear and strong position in relation to the questions posed. Note that providing a mere summary of events *is not* laying out and defending a position.
- **Answering the Question:** Your essay must respond to each component of the essay prompt (each prompt has several parts). If you respond to only one part of the prompt, or if your essay goes off on a tangent or has pieces that are simply not relevant, it will be marked off accordingly.
- **Evidence:** The choice of evidence that you use and the way that you organize its presentation in the essay will be an important point of evaluation. Evidence should be relevant to the questions in the prompt and support the position you stake out in your essay.
- **Originality of Analysis:** While it is difficult to bring a truly original analysis to the table, you will be given considerable credit for an essay that looks at the issues in a particularly thoughtful or innovative way.
- **Structure:** The way that you structure your essay will be assessed; it should have an introduction that presents a clear position, a body that uses evidence from the book to support your position,

and a conclusion that rearticulates and reinforces your position statement (but not repeating its exact same language).

General Guidelines

- **Avoiding Plagiarism:** “General knowledge” information—such as dates or well known facts—do not need to be cited. But if you use a specific idea (for example, an interpretation of a particular historian) or quotation from the textbook or another source, please provide a citation after the quote/idea.
For a book assigned in class, you can use a simple parenthetical citation: (Brinkley, p. 348) or (Wallace, p. 12)
For web sources and print sources that are not either the Brinkley or Wallace texts, I would like you to provide a full citation as a footnote according to the Chicago Manual of Style, which includes a full citation. You can find a quick guide to the Chicago style here:
{ HYPERLINK "http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html" }
Note that if you use web sources, please make sure that they are reliable and trustworthy ones! Crazy conspiracy-theory sites are NOT good sources. Your paper will be graded down if it uses unreliable sources.
- **Format:** Essays must be in a twelve-point, double-spaced, in Times New Roman font, and have one-inch margins.
- **Writing Style Counts:** Make sure that you write complete, clear, and coherent sentences. Don’t overreach in your writing: avoid overly long and convoluted sentences, pretentious language, or words or phrases with ambiguous meanings.
- **Spelling Counts:** Note that the spell-check function can sometimes be wrong!
- **Avoid repeating the language of the question in your answer.**
- **Avoid “non sequiturs”:** The phrase “non sequitur” means “it does not follow” in Latin. A non sequitur happens when a writer moves from one idea to the next without a logical flow. Make sure to provide a smooth transition between each section of your answer.