

Little Big History Essay Instructions

1. Pick a question in history that you find relevant, and that you would like to find an answer to. You may also pick a subject that you like and trace its links to big history.
2. Write your preliminary answer based on the knowledge that you have right now and post it on Blackboard. Please make sure to put your name on the file name.
3. While taking the course, after every session you are expected to fill out the LBH sheet linking your question or subject in 50 - 100 words to that particular session according to the instructions on the sheet. This will help you focus on the links that may be relevant for writing your essay.
4. Select at least three of these links for writing your final essay. These three links must relate to respectively: the history of the universe, of life, and of humanity. You may use as many links as you find useful.
5. Write your essay by focusing on answering your question, or discussing your subject, while explicitly using these links. The essay must consist of 8 - 10 pages, about 400 words per page. Please make sure to put your name on the essay file name.
6. The main thrust of the essay is on creativity: on generating new, unusual ideas, and not on writing a polished essay.
7. All essays must contain the following sections:
 - Introduction, explaining your question and defining important terms
 - Three sections, each dealing with at least one major link (universe, life, humanity)
 - Conclusions:
 - Summary of what you have found
 - Comparison with your preliminary answer
 - Reflection on what you may have learned from big history for answering your question, possibly including a common thread running throughout the argument.
 - Optional: Reflections on how to continue your investigation.
8. Your essay will be graded on:
 - To what extent the academic knowledge offered in the course has been represented correctly (maximum 9 points)
 - Style (maximum 3 points)
 - Creativity (maximum 3 points)

If you don't follow these rules, your essay may not be graded at all.

9. Please submit your essay on Blackboard with your name in the file name.