

**Cornell College**  
**Departmental / Program Assessment Project Design**

Department / Program:	History
Person Submitting this Form:	Lucas
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Outcome Being Assessed:

Students will be able to construct arguments and defend their conclusions about the past.

Assessment Questions:

*Given the outcome being assessed, what do we want to find out? What information will be useful to us?*

How well do students perform on papers and examination essays in constructing and defending arguments?

Student performance on papers and examination essays as well as student participation in classroom discussions will be useful information.

Intended Uses of the Assessment:

*How will the results of the assessment be used? How can we ensure the information will be useful to us?*

The Department of History wants to be certain that students receive sufficient opportunities, instruction, and feedback in making effective arguments using evidence from historical documents and from the writings of historians.

### Gathering, Analyzing, and Interpreting Evidence:

At an annual meeting the tenure and tenure-track members of the history department will assess, in a systematic way, the strengths and weaknesses they perceive in work completed by senior history majors and to formulate recommendations of what needs to be done to improve student work. The focus will be on graduating senior majors and the five 300-level courses they have completed to satisfy the history major.

The following criteria will be used:

- Knowledge of historical context
- Appropriate use of primary sources
- Construction of an effective argument in support of a thesis
- Effective writing
- Appropriate documentation of sources

### Involvement:

*Who will be involved in this assessment project? What role will each of us play?*

All tenured and tenure-track members of the Department of History will be involved in the assessment. Each faculty member has an equal role in the assessment.