

SAMPLE GRADUATE SCHOOL ESSAYS

#1. "From Working Poor to Elite Scholar"

One of the proudest accomplishments of my life was earning my college degree, despite the fact that my early adulthood pointed in the opposite direction, beginning with my marriage at the age of 19. Throughout the 1990s I lived as one of the "working poor," someone who slipped through the cracks of supposedly historic prosperity. By the age of 25 I was divorced and frustrated with menial, low-paying jobs: clerk, receptionist, and housecleaner. There is nothing like scrubbing someone else's toilet to inspire one with determination toward obtaining an education. Because of my absolute commitment toward earning my degree, I got a flexible shift at a retail warehouse which enabled me to acquire my degree while supporting myself financially.

Enrolled at the local community college, I experienced a different world opening up to me; excited by a new encouraging environment, I excelled academically. I learned that if I tried hard, I could succeed; if I wanted something badly enough, I possessed the ability to take advantage of these opportunities. I worked a minimum 35-hour workweek for five years to put myself through school without succumbing to the temptation of a student loan. I paid tuition up front with the money I earned. It was the example of my mother, a Puerto Rican immigrant working diligently to provide for her family, who instilled a work ethic into me that has stood me in good stead.

With a lifelong passion for history, I have developed an interest in the cultural history of early modern and modern Europeans, especially women's history. The experiences of ordinary women fascinate me: how they constitute their world through popular folk tales and literature; how the seemingly irrational paradoxes of the past to modern eyes are completely rational when taken within the historical context; and finally, how these historical changes and transformations in culture constitute the present. I enjoy studying the early modern period of English history, especially the Tudor- Stuart period, because of the tensions that existed between medieval philosophies and the rising Enlightenment intellectualism. My influences have been diverse. I read the popular historian Barbara Tuchman, not for her technical accuracy, but for her beautiful prose. Natalie Zemon Davis's research inspires me in the way that she cleverly picks out fresh life from tired sources. And finally, Michel Foucault's philosophies have profoundly influenced the way I write, for now I have a philosophical grounding that makes me highly sensitive to my own biases. In fact, Foucault's post-structuralist matrix has been instrumental in shaping my current project focusing on the 17th-century midwife Elizabeth Celler. In this project, I am reexamining the current histories of English midwifery using Celler as a case study, detecting a decided bias embedded within them. The underlying assumption of these histories is that pre-industrial professional women-and Celler in particular- struggled against patriarchy and oppression from the male medical community, when in fact Celler's literature shows that she utilized the accepted discourses of patriarchy available to her in her writing and turned them into useful tools of political and religious power.

As a student, I feel that my success lies in the fact that I approached my studies as if I were a professional historian, not student, that is. I always enrolled in the most challenging courses and worked with professors I felt were the most qualified in my areas of interest. Never did I settle for an A- or B+. If I got one, I would ask what I could do to improve- and ultimately, I utilized the advice to strengthen my work. My personal academic milestone occurred while I was completing a research seminar on historical methods. This required course was taught by an Americanist-Dr. Julie Worth, director of the [school withheld] history department-so our research topics were limited to American sources. I was able to work within my main interest, which is marginalized women, while using the primary sources of *The New York Times*. The resulting paper, "Biologically Unsound: Women, Murder, and the Insanity Plea in the Progressive Era" examined the preponderant use of the insanity plea for women who went outside their "innate nature" and murdered, regardless of the circumstances which drove them to kill. Although the topic was outside my focus, which is European history, this paper was selected for publication in the Phi Alpha Theta journal, *The Historian*.

My focus as an undergraduate has always been with an eye toward graduate school and a career as a professional historian. Aware of the rigors of graduate study, I have not only completed an undergraduate language requirement in Spanish, but I am also currently enrolled in an accelerated French course. In addition, I have become active in the historical honor society, Phi Alpha Theta, including serving as chapter president. During my tenure our chapter hosted the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, the largest regional conference in the nation. With the help of faculty adviser Dr. Judith Gaillard, I created the conference sessions, chose appropriate student commentators for those sessions, and gave a keynote speech. The experience taught me that I have a flair for organization as well as mediation. Under my leadership, our chapter also published its first journal, and hosted a variety of campus activities. This year I am working with the Computer Society in order to establish a Web site for students who need help succeeding in history courses; we are going to call it the Clio home page. My position as an authority figure both in classroom work and within these various organizations has awakened a desire to embrace teaching.

Graduate School Paper Format

Rachel Sandford



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Table of Contents Graduate School Paper Format

1. Understanding the eBook Graduate School Paper Format
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Graduate School Paper Format
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Graduate School Paper Format
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Graduate School Paper Format
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Graduate School Paper Format
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Graduate School Paper Format User Reviews and Ratings
 - Graduate School Paper Format and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Graduate School Paper Format Free and Paid eBooks
 - Graduate School Paper Format Public Domain eBooks
 - Graduate School Paper Format eBook Subscription Services
 - Graduate School Paper Format Budget-Friendly Options

6. Navigating Graduate School Paper Format eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Graduate School Paper Format Compatibility with Devices
 - Graduate School Paper Format Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Graduate School Paper Format
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Graduate School Paper Format
 - Interactive Elements Graduate School Paper Format
8. Staying Engaged with Graduate School Paper Format
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Graduate School Paper Format
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Graduate School Paper Format
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Graduate School Paper Format
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Graduate School Paper Format
 - Setting Reading Goals Graduate School Paper Format
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Graduate School Paper Format
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Graduate School Paper Format
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements

- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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geology lab class. ... This stream will meet a river, and this river will flow into more rivers until it reaches a ... Appendix 3: Answers to Lab Exercises The following are suggested answers to the lab exercises for Labs 1 to 10 in A Practical Guide to Introductory Geology. Answers to the practice exercises ... GEOL107 Lab 5 Rivers Streams Groundwater - GEOL 107 GEOL107 Lab 5 Rivers Streams Groundwater · 1) identify the direction that a river would flow on a topographic map · 2) compare two rivers/streams and determine ... Appendix 3 Answers to Exercises - Physical Geology by S Earle · 2015 — Appendix 3 Answers to Exercises. (3) Answers to Exercises - Physical Geology. The following are suggested answers to the exercises embedded in the various ... Overview of Water - Introductory Physical Geology Laboratory ... Jul 14, 2020 — Discharge increases downstream in most rivers, as tributaries join the main channel and add water. Sediment load (the amount of sediment carried ... La regola dell'equilibrio Award-winning, best-selling novelist Gianrico Carofiglio was born in Bari in 1961 and worked for many years as a prosecutor specializing in organized crime. La regola dell'equilibrio by Carofiglio, Gianrico Carofiglio is best known for the Guido Guerrieri crime series: Involuntary Witness, A Walk in the Dark, Reasonable Doubts, Temporary Perfections and now, A Fine ... La regola dell'equilibrio La regola dell'equilibrio è un romanzo giallo scritto da Gianrico Carofiglio e pubblicato da Einaudi nel 2014. Fa parte della serie I casi dell'avvocato ... La regola dell'equilibrio Quotes by Gianrico Carofiglio The man who lies to himself and listens to his own lie comes to such a pass that he can no longer distinguish the truth, within him or around him. La regola dell'equilibrio book by Gianrico Carofiglio "A FINE LINE is a terrific novel, a legal thriller that is also full of complex meditations on the life of the lawyer and the difficult compromises inherent ... La regola dell'equilibrio - Hardcover La regola dell'equilibrio ISBN 13: 9788806218126. La regola dell'equilibrio - Hardcover. 3.84 avg rating • (1,891 ratings by Goodreads). View all 41 copies ... La regola dell'equilibrio by Gianluca Carofiglio: Good Used book that is in clean, average condition without any missing pages. Seller Inventory # 46077381-6. Contact seller · Report this item. La regola dell'equilibrio Dec 11, 2014 — Guido Guerrieri is a changed man. Handed a troubling medical diagnosis, his usual confidence has been shaken, and even if the jury is out on ... La regola dell'equilibrio by Gianrico Carofiglio | eBook eBook(Italian-language Edition) · \$8.99. La regola dell'equilibrio, Brand New, Free shipping in the US La regola dell'equilibrio, Brand New, Free shipping in the US · Great Book Prices Store (274250) · 97.3% positive feedback ...