

National Parks USEM
The Story of Your Park Paper Guide

The Story of Your Park Essay with Bibliography – Oct. 8 – In 5 pages (double-spaced), write an essay telling the story of your park that includes a discussion of geography and environment, a history of settlement/use and establishment of the park, and major people, issues, and themes. End with a paragraph suggesting some research questions you might pursue, and include a properly formatted bibliography, divided into two sections and including at least 10 primary sources and 3 secondary sources, *in addition to whatever sources you used to tell the story of your park.*

Sources for this paper:

Administrative histories – look in npshistory.com, ND Catalog, and

<https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/electronicresources.htm>

The Encyclopedia of American National Parks – E160 .E53 2004 – 10th floor reading room, non circulating
Your park's website (nps.gov/____)

Visitor statistics – nps.gov – about us – learn more – public use statistics

Relevant primary and secondary sources you've found for your larger project

Structure:

Intro: What is your park and what makes your park distinctive?

Section 1: Identify your park in place – where is it, how big is it, what are its environmental characteristics and main ecological and geological features?

Section 2: Identify your park in time – when was it established? What was it like before it was a national park? How did it become a park? Who were the main players; what were the main issues at hand?

Section 3: Change over time – how would you describe the history of the park? Major trends, turning points or important moments? What conflicts or management issues became important?

Conclusion: Return to what makes your park distinctive. What issues or questions rise to the surface in this story? What issues are most interesting to you? What research questions might you pursue?

Bibliography: divided into sections primary/secondary/general sources; at least 3 secondary sources; 10 primary sources; and whatever else you used to tell your story

Rubric:

To what extent, and how effectively, did you discuss the questions listed above in each section?

(six spaces for assessment will follow – one for each section plus bib)

Is the story coherent; does it read well?

Are the footnote and bibliographical citations mostly correct?