Segregation and inequality. Description for research paper From the syllabus: “Students will hand in a 15-20 page paper inclusive of footnotes. Papers should be 12-point font, double-spaced, and include a bibliography (this does not count toward the 15-20 page length). Students should use the Chicago manual style for all references.” The purpose of this paper is to prove an argument (your thesis) and to do so primarily by using primary sources to support your argument. You will also need to include secondary sources, both to situate your argument in a scholarly conversation and to provide context for primary sources when necessary. There is no single way to do this, but there are certain things that you must include in your paper. The most important thing, though, is that you think about why you are structuring the paper the way you do, why you are including the details that you do. The Introduction (2-4 pages) You must include: \*A hook: find some way to pull your reader into your paper. This can be a vivid story, an extended quote, or some other way to grab your reader’s attention. It should be different in style than what comes after it, but it should also foreshadow the argument \*Historiography: this is an explanation of what historians have already said on your subject (whether the specific subject you are writing on, or on the individual in general). The goal here is to show that the argument you are making fits into a larger scholarly conversation. \*Thesis: You should state your argument and you should make that argument clear to your reader You may want to include: Theory: is there some theory that you will be using in the paper? You may want to explain that upfront Discussion of sources: are you using a particular sort of evidence? Do you feel it will be helpful to discuss that evidence here? Roadmap: Some authors find it useful to give readers a sense of how the paper will be structured. Do you plan to break the paper up into subsections? You might want to explain what they are. Background: This is not a comprehensive biography of this individual, so you may want to provide some necessary background information. This might also go into the body section as well. The Body (12-15 pages) This is the main section of the paper, where you actually make the argument and provide evidence to support it. There are many ways to handle this section. You might break it up into subsections that each develops some element of the argument. If you do this, be wary of breaking it up into too many sections. I would say for this sort of paper 3-5 subsections would be as many as you would want (i.e., you should not think of each page as its own section). You may, on the other hand, structure the whole body as one, unbroken section. In either case, you will want to include the following elements: Evidence: this comes in the form of direct quotes and paraphrase. Including some well-chosen quotes is a helpful way of making your argument, but beware of overloading your paper with quotes. Analysis: you need to explain how this evidence supports the argument you are making. Remember that evidence does not make an argument on its own. You need to explain to the reader the significance of that evidence. Context: Some evidence needs to be supported by context. Does your subject, for example, make reference to an event that the reader will only understand if you explain it? Was something happening at a particular time that we need to know about? Does your subject have a relationship with another figure that we need to know about? All of this is context that can help support your argument. Be wary, though, of including too much context Conclusion (1-2 pages) Restatement of thesis: remind your reader of your thesis, though you will want to restate it somewhat differently, given that you have just proved it with 12+ pages of evidence and analysis The big picture: This is your chance to explain to your reader why s/he should care about this argument/subject. Does it have some specific significance to the present day? What will you be graded on? You are ultimately graded on how convincing your argument is. Does it make sense? Is it supported with evidence (especially primary source evidence)? Does it speak to the concerns of other historians? It is also important, though, that you do so in well-crafted, readable prose. Spelling and grammatical errors should be kept to a minimum. This should be a paper that your reader (me) enjoys reading.