

PARAGRAPH INSTRUCTIONS

Using 1 primary source and 2 or 3 of the facts we've discussed in class, compose a well organized paragraph that addresses this question: **"What do you believe was the MOST tragic aspect of the convict-leasing system?"** (An "aspect" is a way in which something can be viewed, as in "We should look at all aspects of the situation.")

Because you are limited to one paragraph and the amount of evidence you can use in that paragraph, make certain the 2 or 3 facts you select, along with your primary source, relate strongly to each other and to the point you want to make.

Begin your paragraph with your conclusion about what the most tragic aspect was. (That's your **thesis**.) This CANNOT BE a simple statement of fact; it must be an arguable opinion. And it should be the **very first sentence in the paragraph**.

While you have to include 2 or 3 facts and make specific references to 1 of the primary sources you worked with, make certain you're not listing that information instead of discussing it. You must provide a meaningful context for all the specifics you include. The paragraph should be a blend of the **concrete** (those specifics which you believe support and help prove your opinion) with the **abstract** (you expressing and explaining your opinion and how the facts support it).

The paragraph should be approximately 200-250 words long. If you're off by more than 10%, points will be deducted from your final score. The aim here is to produce a very focused, purposeful paragraph.