

Appendix 1: Assignment Prompt: “Forgotten No More” Essay

Choose a female historical figure who you believe has not received the attention she deserves. Write an essay describing her life and achievements, and explaining why we should remember her in the twenty-first century.

Make sure that you **justify your choice** in the introduction of your essay—provide evidence that the historical figure has not received proper acknowledgement. For instance, Madame Marie Curie, the winner of two Nobel prizes, or Elizabeth Barrett Browning, celebrated poet, are not particularly good choices for this essay.

As you make your selection, ask yourself these questions:

- Does this historical figure have elaborate pages about her life and works on open-access databases such as Wikipedia?
- Has she or have her works been depicted in popular media, such as films and television series?
- Has she been the recipient of prestigious awards and other national/international accolades?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, you need to keep looking.

This assignment is inspired by the “Overlooked” obituary series published in *The New York Times*. We have one essay from the series, on Pandita Ramabai Saraswati, in our course readings. Absolutely feel free to go through the other essays in the series at this link for inspiration: <https://www.nytimes.com/spotlight/overlooked>.

Conduct research on the internet to select a historical figure based on the field of *your* interest. For example, if you are interested in female scientists/academics, search for women involved in scientific/academic fields in the 1800s and you will find figures such as Margaret Murray, Anna Volkova, and many more!

Also look through the timelines we studied in the beginning of the semester to find many unfamiliar names of nineteenth-century women with important yet overlooked achievements. You may come across someone whose achievements attract your attention and encourage you to do further research!

Formatting:

- **Document type** – MS Word. Shared Google Docs will not be accepted.
- **Length** – 2 full pages to 3 pages (no Works Cited page needed for this essay). Anything under 2 full pages will be considered shorter than the required minimum length. If you exceed the limit, keep your writing under 4 full pages.
- **Font, Margins, and Spacing** – Times New Roman 12-point font, 1-inch margin on all sides, double-spacing. To ensure a uniform standard for all students, you are required to follow these font, margin, and spacing requirements.

Submission

Assignment adapted from “Appendix 1: Assignment Prompt: ‘Forgotten No More’ Essay” by Riya Das published in *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*, vol. 17, no. 1, 2021.

There will be a Turnitin portal on Canvas for the “Forgotten No More” essay. You will be able to access this portal in the Module for Week 7 and also from the “Assignments” tab. Upload your essay as an MS Word document on Canvas.

Note on Originality

As per our course policy, all of your work for this course must be original (written by you) and not copied from other sources. You are not allowed to submit papers that you or anyone else has submitted for any other course or any other previous or concurrent course. Papers with copied/plagiarized content from other sources will receive 0 points and be reported for disciplinary action for academic dishonesty.

Grading Rubric

Grade/Points (0-15)	Comment
A (13.5-15)	Content: Thoughtful choice of “forgotten” nineteenth-century female figure. Informative essay with excellent justification for choice. Page length satisfied. Organization: Smooth transition of paragraphs and ideas. Clarity: Excellent.
B (12-13.4)	Content: Thoughtful choice of “forgotten” nineteenth-century female figure. Informative essay with satisfactory justification for choice. Page length satisfied. Organization: Transition between paragraphs needs some improvement. Clarity: Good.
C (10.5-11.9)	Content: Better choice of “forgotten” nineteenth-century female figure possible. Clearer justification needed for choice. Page length satisfied. Organization: Transition between paragraphs needs considerable improvement. Clarity: Acceptable, but needs editing and proofreading.
D (9-10.4)	Content: Choice of “forgotten” nineteenth-century female figure not satisfactory. Does not fulfill several assignment requirements and/or minimum page length. Organization: Choppy sentences. No smooth transition between paragraphs. Clarity: Needs thorough editing and proofreading.
F (0-8.9)	Content: Missing / completely unrelated to assignment requirements / considerably shorter than minimum page length / plagiarized. Organization: NA Clarity: NA