**Introductory Paragraph:**

This paragraph provides an overview of the paper and must include a *thesis statement*, which is a declarative statement about the country that is based on the research and data presented in the body. The thesis statement should tell the reader what the paper is about and be grounded in at least three points presented in the paper. For example, *Tuareg identity in Mali rests on resistance to colonialism, and this is reflected in music (point 1), art (point 2) and poetry (point 3).* Since the introduction and conclusion are based on the body, they should be written last.

(**The Body of paper elaborates on** **research and** **data tied to the points in the thesis statement**. The data should have intext citations linking the information to the bibliography. The data should be presented *terms and concepts presented in the lessons, lectures, and readings*. End the paragraph with a transition sentence that leads to the next paragraph (ie. ‘In addition to point one, point two.’) or use subtitles for each paragraph.)

**Body Paragraph One:**

This paragraph provides the social and historical context. It should offer a brief historical overview that is unique to the country (Mali begins with the Mali kingdom, Ethiopia with human origins, etc. Do not begin with enslavement nor European colonialism.) This paragraph should be no more than ½ page.

**Body Paragraph Two:**

This paragraph elaborates on **research and** **data tied to a point in the thesis statement.** With the same criteria applied to Body Paragraph One. For example, a paragraph describing resistance themes in Mali music supports point one in the thesis example above.

**Body Paragraph Three:**

This paragraph elaborates on **research and** **data tied to the next point in the thesis statement.** With the same criteria applied to Body Paragraph One. For example, a paragraph describing resistance themes in Mali art supports point two in the thesis example above.

(continue with body paragraphs as needed)

**Conclusion Paragraph:**

This paragraph closes the paper by reiterating the thesis statement with elaborations using terms and concepts from the readings. The final sentence should also point the reader in a direction such as: the need for more research in this area; in light of this, then that; research presented here seriously calls to question..; etc.

**References**

There should be at least five scholarly sources that are properly formatted (any style) and cited in text. Note the syllabus and assignment description state failure to cite data is an automatic ‘0.’ See annotated bibliography lesson for more information

**Formatting:** minimum five pages (it is OK to go over), Times New Roman, 12 point font, one-inch margins, no extra spaces between paragraphs, name date and title in header, tile page is not required and does not count toward five page minimum, references should be on a separate page and do not count toward five page minimum.