

FIRST PAPER TOPICS

Requirements

1. Please write a five-page paper in response to **ONE** of the topics below. The text should be double-spaced. A hard copy version of the paper is due at the beginning of Class #12.
2. Your paper must be computer-processed. Please give your paper a title, and write your name on the back of the last page. Do not write your name elsewhere on the paper. All pages should be numbered.
3. Citations to texts read in this course should be made in parentheses in your paper. For example, if you refer to a passage on page 13 of E. Bradford Burns' *The Poverty of Progress*, indicate this in the following manner at the end of your sentence, after the period: (Burns, 13) Full citations to any work not assigned in class should be made in footnote or endnote form. For more suggestions, see the guide to **editing**.

Topics

1. "The independence of Spanish America at the beginning of the nineteenth century came about primarily because of the courage and political leadership of men such as Simon Bolívar and José de San Martín." Write an essay in which you disagree with this statement, and provide an alternative explanation for Spanish American independence.
2. The year is 1815. Imagine you are one of the following: a liberal Creole plantation owner or his wife in Caracas, the head of the Spanish government in Bogotá, a male or female plantation slave in New Granada, or a British merchant in New Granada. You have just read Simon Bolívar's *Jamaica Letter*. Write a letter to a friend, or imagine a conversation with an acquaintance, in which you react to Bolívar's ideas.
3. Towards the end of *The Poverty of Progress*, E. Bradford Burns suggests that political and social experiments in Paraguay from 1810-70 constituted "the most successful resistance to Europeanization" in the nineteenth century. (Burns, 128-31). But would this experiment have worked elsewhere in nineteenth-century Latin America? Respond by considering the cases of one or two of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, or Colombia.