

Research Paper Proposal

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HY 103: US History from 1865

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## Research Paper Proposal

### **Research Topic:**

My research topic is going to be looking at how the Eugenics Crusade developed, how it developed in the US, and how it contributed to the cause of WW1. In order to do this, I am going to focus on the history of Charles Darwin, Francis Galton, Teddy Roosevelt, Margret Sanger, and Adolf Hitler.

### **Thesis (working):**

Although the crusade focused on creating a superior American race, Eugenics is unethical and it violates basic human rights because the government would sterilize people of low IQ, undesired race, disability, or religion, they would do so with no informed consent, and were persuading people with lies all over the country.

### **Thesis Road Map:**

- Government and Doctors sterilized people of Low IQ, undesired race, disability, and religion.
- Government and Doctors had no informed consent to sterilize these people.
- Using popular figures, like Teddy Roosivelt, to persuade the country to be pro-eugenics.

### **What I know about this topic and why I am interested:**

The highschool education system doesn't teach students about the Eugenics Crusade. I didn't know about this topic until this year, when my husband was watching a documentary on the television that was covering the history of the Eugenics Crusade. While watching the documentary, it surprised me that I didn't know about this topic and that in any of my history classes in the past, I have never heard of Eugenics. Learning about it was baffling because it was such a large part in our history and our race for equality. This topic has my interest because it is

amazing to me that the American culture and officials fell into trying to create a better human race. The Eugenics Crusade ties into one of the many reasons that WW1 started. Adolf Hitler did happen to get his Nazi ideas from the US Eugenics Crusade, but of course more extreme and heavily brutal.

**What I want to learn:**

I want to learn more about where the ideas of Eugenics came from. I would like to know who came about the idea and how it officially started in the US and more about the people that were enforcing Eugenics on society. I also want to learn more on how they constructed their IQ tests that determined if the people were going to be sterilized or not.

**Initial Questions:**

1. Where did the idea of Eugenics come from?
2. Who was the first person to propose the Eugenics Idea?
3. Who brought the idea to the United States?
4. How did the Eugenics idea take off in the US?
5. At first, were people pro-Eugenics or not?
6. How was Teddy Roosevelt involved in the Eugenics Crusade?
7. How did the US persuade the people into being pro-Eugenics?
8. How were people chosen to be sterilized?
9. How did the US and Doctors construct the IQ tests given to people?
10. How was Margret Sanger involved in the Eugenics Crusade?
11. How did the Eugenics Crusade tie into WW1?
12. How did Adol Hitler construct his Nazi ideas for Germany?
13. When and how did the Eugenics crusade stop in the US?