History 217 Modern Brazil Spring 2018　　　　　**Name:**
Early Brazilian Books Project: Primary Source Essay　　　**Source:**

Your assignment was to demonstrate your critical thinking skills analyzing 16th century Europeans depictions of Brazil and its peoples, and placing your argument in dialogue with the interpretation of an outside scholarly source (Patricia Seed's chapter from *American Pentamento*).

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Work	Comments
Thesis	Makes a strong, persuasive argument.	Makes a solid argument but speaks broadly.	Makes a weak argument.	Has an introduction but no argument.	
Primary Source Analysis	Thoughtful evaluation of how the passage reveals the author's point of view (POV), purpose, methods, & intended audience.	Clear & logical discussion of author's POV, purpose, methods, & audience.	Some discussion, but could be more detailed &/or demonstrate more critical thinking skills.	Insufficient attention to author's POV, intent, &/or methodology.	
Use of Evidence	Multiple relevant examples to support all claims.	Clear indication of the relationship between relevant evidence & main ideas.	Some uses of examples, but less clarity about how they fit together.	Essay lacks sufficient examples.	
Analysis	Rich synthesis of links between evidence & claims. Organizes & synthesizes evidence to reveal insightful patterns, differences, or similarities related to focus.	Discussion of links between evidence & claims. Some synthesis of evidence to reveal patterns, differences, or similarities related to focus.	Minimal discussion of links between evidence & claims. Superficial synthesis of evidence to reveal patterns, differences, or similarities related to focus.	Little to no discussion of links between evidence & claims. No synthesis of evidence to reveal patterns, differences, or similarities related to focus.	
Student's Understanding	Nuanced, balanced analysis of primary source & what it reveals.	Intro demonstrates clear insight into text. Balanced critique.	Competent use of written sources. Could consider more aspects of the text.	Descriptive use of undigested sources.	
Links to Historical Context	Multifaceted, compelling analysis making links to larger context. Insightful links to course themes.	Persuasive assessment well supported by specific examples. Clear links to course themes.	General assessment that could be strengthened by specific examples.	Broad assessment or judgment based on unsubstantiated personal opinion	

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Engagement with Patricia Seed's "Cannibals: Iberia's Partial Truth"	Sophisticated engagement with Seed's scholarly interpretation and explanation of how your argument fits.	Careful consideration of Seed's key points about your theme.	Clear summary of Seed's main ideas.	Minimal engagement with Seed's argument.	
Conclusions	States a conclusion that explores the larger historical significance & implications.	States a logical conclusion focused primarily on essay findings.	States a general conclusion that, because it is so broad, applies well beyond the scope of the essay.	States an ambiguous, illogical, or unsupportable conclusion.	
Writing	Elegant writing. Clearly structured essay guided by thesis & topic sentences. No grammatical errors.	Somewhat clearly structured essay guided by thesis & topic sentences. No (or minimal) grammatical errors.	Some examples of poor sentence structure or other writing issues that make the essay less effective.	Communication of ideas undermined by writing issues.	
Citations	All sources correctly cited.	Only minor errors of citation.	Formatting problems but all sources indicated.	Inadequate citations.	

Comments: