

Suggested Topics for Response Papers

First Response Paper (2 pages): What do you see as the crux of the Norman Controversy? What evidence do you find most important and convincing?

Second Response Paper (2 pp.): What evidence do we have for the social structure of early Kievan Rus? What can you say about the key groups in society and their interrelations?

Third Response Paper (2 pp.) -- How would you evaluate the consequences of the "Mongol yoke"? What evidence would you use to buttress your argument?

Fourth Response Paper (2 pp.) -- Either a) compare the Sudebnik of 1497 with the *Russkaia Pravda* or b) consider the value of these first two foreigners' accounts (Contarini and Herberstein) as evidence.

Fifth Response Paper (2 pp.) -- Evaluate the pros and cons of suretyship as a system of control in Muscovy.

Sixth Response Paper -- What do you think of Platonov's argument that the Time of Troubles can be understood as a series of phases?

Seventh Response Paper (Apr 10, first Romanovs)-- Olearius and Krizhanich present different arguments concerning the strengths and weaknesses of Russia in this period. Considering the issues raised in this period, what is your own evaluation of this period.

Eighth Response Paper (Peter the Great) -- If you were one of Peter the Great's subjects, what do you think you would think of him as your ruler?

Ninth Response Paper (era of palace revolutions) -- This period in the 18th century was one of enormous flux in the form of rulership. Yet certain new forms of state governance were emerging. What can you say about them based on this week's readings?

Tenth Response Paper (the legislative commission of 1767) -- Either 1) consider Catherine's instructions as a source for her rule -- how would you characterize her rule based on this document? Or 2) consider the instructions presented by different classes of society. What were their dominant grievances? How did they vary across social class?