

Essay Writing for History

- Looks at specific instances and culminates in the conclusion
- Used for controversial topics to maintain reader attention
 - **A complete thesis** in the beginning helps deter readers who disagree
 - argument can be built slowly
- Helps clarify your stance to ensure logical progression and conclusion
- Uses persuasion

Crafting the Thesis

- Step 1: Identify the period
- Step 2: Identify the skill assessed
- Step 3: Identify the Main Idea of the question
- Step 4: Brainstorm SFI's
- Step 5: Create categories for those SFI's
 - These categories will become you three main points!

A THESIS IS:

- A controlling idea around which your paper is built
- A one-sentence answer to the historical question being asked
- A concise statement of your essay's argument
- A point of view adopted about a historical problem
- A proposition to be defended or argued

Good Thesis Statements:

- Deal with ALL aspects of the question
- Take a clear position on the issue
- Provide an organizational framework for the essay
- Address the core skill defined by the question
- ARE NOT SIMPLY A RESTATEMENT OF THE QUESTION!

Sample Question

“In the end, the settlement of the Americas by Europeans in the 15th and 16th centuries was a positive event for humanity”

Refute, modify or support the above statement.

Sample Thesis

Although the settlement of the Americas by Europeans following the arrival of Columbus in 1492 created many positive outcomes, the resulting issues of disease, human enslavement and biological diversity combine to make it on the whole a negative event for humanity.

Introduction



- Orient reader to purpose
- Address the scope
- Put forward a thesis answering the question
- Place the thesis in context
- By end, reader has a general idea of the topic and the direction (the stance)

Writing the Body

- Interpret the evidence (Clearness, sufficiency, and importance/relevance)
- Connect the facts to the conclusion so that the audience understands your thinking (clearness, sufficiency, and depth)
- Use original thinking (avoid discussing what everyone else would discuss)

Conclusion

- Review the interpretations/conclusions already made
- Show how your conclusion follows logically from the evidence used
- Restate your thesis as a supported argument
- Understand that inductive reasoning does not necessarily *prove* anything

Note on Research

- Use only credible sources (accuracy)
- Use only verifiable facts to maintain reliability (accuracy)
- Select the best evidence to achieve your purpose (importance/relevance)
- Uncover appropriate POVs

Check for clarity

- Use the “so what?” method to check for missing links or connections
- Ask yourself if someone else could explain your **thinking**