

Writer's Block

Writing History:

Thesis Statements

Historical Argumentation

- Argumentation means you are trying to support a particular position on or interpretation of a historical event or question.
- Your position or interpretation is expressed in a clear, concise **THESIS STATEMENT**
- The thesis is a statement of **PURPOSE** for your writing
- A good argument will include categories of analysis or main points that are introduced in the thesis.
- The thesis statement then is a sort of road map to your writing.

Good Thesis Statements:

- Deal with ALL aspects of the question
- Address the core skill defined by the question
- Express a SPECIFIC assertion in response to the question prompt
- Indicate a SPECIFIC counter-position which the essay will seek to refute
- Provide an organizational framework for the essay
- ARE NOT SIMPLY A RESTATEMENT OF THE QUESTION!

Points of Style

- APUSH Thesis Statements should be ONE sentence
- They need to be CLEAR and CONCISE
- Remember:
 - Third Person
 - Past Tense
 - Active Voice
 - Formal Vocabulary

Parts of an APUSH thesis

- Assertion of position
- Recognition of counter-position
- Categories of analysis
- Example: (Question – Were the outcomes of interaction between English settlers and Native populations primarily negative or positive?)

Though moments of cooperation and peaceful coexistence occurred such as the aid provided by Native groups to European settlers, the outcomes of interaction between the English colonists and Native Americans was primarily negative in terms of population decline, cultural erosion, and environmental degradation.