



How to Write Your Essay



Paragraph 1 (Introduction). This paragraph will introduce the Lesson Question. Recap the event: (1) Recap the event or issues (who, what, when, and where). (2) Explain the controversy. (3) Tell why there is a dilemma. (4) Then, write your answer to the historical question (your thesis statement).



Supporting Paragraph 2. (1) Introduce your strongest reason that supports your argument. (2) Select a quote or other evidence that will convince a skeptic of your argument AND state who/where this evidence comes from. (3) Explain how your quote or evidence supports your argument. (4) Explain your judgment of (a) the author's reliability, (b) the influence of context, and/or (c) the quality of the author's facts and examples. (5) Incorporate Equity vs. Progress with ISPICE concepts.



Supporting paragraph 3 and 4. Supporting paragraph. (1) Choose another reason to support your argument. Repeat the above (2) → (4). Select a quote or other evidence—convince someone of your argument! Follow the directions for Supporting Paragraph 2 when completing Supporting Paragraph 3 and 4.



Supporting Paragraph 4. Choose the last reason, quote, or evidence that supports your answer. Then explain what the quote or evidence means in your own words. Third: prove, or affirm the evidence by explaining (1) how reliable the author is, or (2) the author's ideas or evidence. Fourth: compare historical documents and explain how society either progressed or digressed (using Equity and Progress with ISPICE).



Paragraph 5 (Conclusion). First, write your answer to the historical question using different words from your introduction. Summarize your first supporting paragraph. Summarize your second supporting paragraph. Summarize your third supporting paragraph. Summarize your fourth supporting paragraph. End with why the evidence supporting your interpretation is correct using Equity and Progress with ISPICE concepts.

Helpful Phrases for Writing Historical Arguments

Introducing ideas	After reading information from both sides,	After reading [write down authors of each document],
Introducing a quote	S/He wrote that, “...”	One reason was, “...”
Explaining a quote	His/Her quote shows that	S/He used this claim as a reason why
Evaluating a quote	This argument is not convincing because	This point makes sense because
Adding to what you have already written	Another reason why this is true is that	Moreover... In addition...
Including ideas from another perspective	On the other hand... It may also be argued that... While...	[Name of the person with the opposing perspective] had a different point of view. S/he believed that
Rejecting or Refuting other perspectives	[Name of person or Describe evidence] was more reliable [explain]	But there is a problem with [his/her] thinking because
Wrapping things up	When all of the facts on both sides are considered,	While it may never be answered conclusively, the available evidence strongly suggests that