

Writing an APUSH Essay



Don't simply rephrase or copy the prompt!

Paragraph #1— THESIS

- Answer the prompt
- Can be 1-3 sentences
- Articulate, sophisticated
- Address multiple perspectives
- State factors you'll argue

Paragraph #2— CONTEXT

- Set the historical stage
- What led to this issue, debate?
- What caused this problem?
- What do we need to understand about this issue?
- What is the broader historical context?

Important!
This indicates that you know the big picture!
Be specific!

Paragraph #3— 1st SUPPORTING PARAGRAPH

- What historical **EVIDENCE** supports your **THESIS**?
- Why does this **EVIDENCE** support your **THESIS**?
- **FOR DBQ: Which DOCS support your point?**

Tip!
3 is a manageable number of **SUPPORTING PARAGRAPHS**

Paragraph #4— 2nd SUPPORTING PARAGRAPH

- See Paragraph #3

Paragraph #5— 3rd SUPPORTING PARAGRAPH

- See Paragraph #3

Paragraph #6— SYNTHESIS

- How does your thesis, evidence, etc. connect to other historical periods, geographic areas, contexts, or circumstances
- How can you extend your argument?
- Can you show contradictory evidence?

Use this as your conclusion