Writing an APUSH Essay

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?

Paragraph #3— 1st SUPPORTING PARAGRAMPH
• What historical EVIDENCE supports your THESIS?
• Why does this EVIDENCE support your THESIS?
• FOR DBQ: Which DOCS support your point?

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?