

Theme: Belief Systems

The world has many different belief systems. Each is distinctive, but all greatly influenced the lives of their followers and the society in which the belief system was practiced.

Task: Choose two major belief systems and for each

- Explain key beliefs and/or practices
- Discuss an influence the belief system had on the lives of its followers or the society in which it was practiced

You may use any example from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include animism, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Daoism, Islam, Judaism, legalism, and Shinto.

You are not limited to these suggestions.

Thesis Statement:

Belief System	Key Beliefs and Practices	Influence (Analysis)

Parts of an Essay

- I. Introduction**
- A. Topic Sentence
1. Introduce the topic/main idea
 2. Include relevant background info/historical setting
- B. Thesis
1. Last sentence in the intro.
 2. Explains what you will demonstrate
 3. Refer to the task
- II. Body (Use TEXAS: refer to attached hand-out)**
- A. Start with a topic sentence.
- B. Provide detail and examples to support the thesis
- C. Analyze and explain your evidence, do not just describe.
- III. Conclusion**
- A. Restate your thesis
- B. Evaluate the theme
- C. Provide outside connections

Ideas

Introductory Sentence: Capture the Reader's Attention

- Quotation: One that sums up the essay would be nice
- Definition: Use sparingly. Too many amateur writers use this method.
- Comparison: Take something the reader is unfamiliar with and relate it to something they are familiar with.

DO NOT:

Announce your intentions. Do not flatly announce what you are about to do in an essay.

- In this paper I will . . .
- The purpose of this essay is to . . .

T-Topic sentence

(Identify and briefly describe the topic of your paragraph)

E-Explanation sentence

(Provide further explanation, background information, or clarification of topic sentence)

XA-Examples and Analysis

examples or quotations that prove that your thesis is true.

S-Summary

(Restate your topic and/or argument)

Ideas:

- Ask yourself "So what"? Why is the information you've presented important?
- What is the significance of your findings?
- **Synthesize, don't summarize**
 - Don't simply repeat things that were in your paper. They have read it. Show them how the points you made and the support and examples you used were not random, but fit together.
- Give your reader something to think about, perhaps a way to use your paper in the "real" world. If your introduction went from general to specific, make your conclusion go from specific to general. Think