

United States History and Government
Thematic Essay
In-Class on Tuesday October 28, 2014
Mrs. Hatlen

Directions:

- 1.) Create an outline (see below for format) for the essay that includes a thesis statement and an organization for the paragraphs of your essay. In your outline you should plan where you will use the specific historical evidence that addresses the Task and where you can include analysis of the topic.
- 2.) Write a draft of the essay. After you're finished you should edit the essay by reflecting on whether or not you have fully addressed the Task of the essay and included sufficient historical evidence and analysis. You CANNOT bring this draft with you on Tuesday but if you practice writing the whole essay you will be better prepared to write under pressure. This also gives you the chance to practice writing in a short period of time (40 mins) and you can figure out how to pace yourself for Tuesday.
- 3.) Review the Rubric that is used for grading (it is posted on the class website in the right hand column).
- 4.) Remember, if you looking to get a 4 or 5 (out of 5) as your essay grade you will need to include SUBSTANTIAL analysis in your essay. Oftentimes students simply restate historical facts and examples without EXPLAINING the importance of those things or the connections between them. Try practicing how you will analyze the significance or connections between events. Go to the class webpage that gives examples of analytical phrases/terms you can use in your writing.
- 5.) PRACTICE makes PERFECT (or something close to it ☺) so practice this weekend!

Example of outline:

I. Introduction:

Thesis: (one or two sentences that address the Task)

Bullet point some main ideas you will be including in the essay.

II. Body Paragraph 1

Topic sentence for the paragraph

Bullet point information you will include (historical details like names of people, compromises, writings, etc.)

Write a few analytical words/phrases you can use

III. Body Paragraph 2 (minimum of 2 body paragraphs needed for your essay)

Topic sentence for the paragraph

Bullet point information you will include (historical details like names of people, compromises, writings, etc.)

Write a few analytical words/phrases you can use

IV. Body Paragraph 3 (if you need it... you're choice in how you want to organize)

Topic sentence for the paragraph

Bullet point information you will include (historical details like names of people, compromises, writings, etc.)

Write a few analytical words/phrases you can use

More body Paragraphs as needed but more than 4 is probably too much – and you probably won't be able to finish in time!

V. Conclusion paragraph where you summarize and restate your thesis statement.

(Reminder: according to the rubric, if you don't write a conclusion the highest grade you can earn is a 2 out of 5. Please practice your time management to ensure you can have a conclusion – even a short one – on your essay).