**Essay Template**

**Introductory Paragraph**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| WORDS OF INTRODUCTION* a few sentences talking about your essay topic in a general way
* set the stage for the time, place and circumstances
* get the reader interested
 |  |
| THESIS QUESTION* begin by stating the question you will be answering
* OPTIONAL… if you use this, be sure it doesn’t disrupt the flow
 |  |
| THESIS STATEMENT* an answer to the question that is different from your plan of development
 |  |
| PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT* a sentence outlining the content of your 3 body paragraphs
* should be in order (eg—the first point mentioned in the plan should be the topic of the first paragraph, the second paragraph, and so on)
 |  |
| CONCLUDING SENTENCE* wrap up the paragraph, perhaps by rewording your thesis
 |  |

**INSERT BODY PARAGRAPHS HERE!!!**

**Concluding Paragraph**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| THESIS RESTATED* a rewrite of your thesis statement from your introductory paragraph
 |  |
| EXAMPLES SUMMARIZED* a rewrite of your plan of development from your introductory paragraph
* a summary of the evidence put forward in two or three sentences
* *do not add any new information*
 |  |
| WORDS OF CONCLUSION* a few sentences that tie up your thesis nicely
* leave the reader with something to think about (what this topic means for the future)
 |  |

**Body Paragraphs**

History essays need to be written in a logical and sometimes chronological order. It would be awkward to write an essay on the lessons learned in the battles of WWI by starting with Passchendaele and ending with The Somme! Carefully craft your essay so that it makes sense. Do not write about the strength of the Roman military before you write about the Greeks. Do not write about the impact of George Washington’s death before you talk about the significance of his life.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TOPIC SENTENCE* a simple sentence stating what your paragraph will be about
* similar to your essay’s thesis, keep it simple
 |  |
| ELABORATION* a sentence expanding on your topic sentence (not a list!!)
* this sentence will be used as a mini plan of development for the paragraph
 |  |
| EXAMPLE #1* begin by supplying evidence of the issue in one or two sentences
 |  |
| ANAYLSIS #1* this group of sentences explains how the first reference proves the thesis
* this group of sentences *analyzes* the relevance of the first reference
 |  |
| EXAMPLE #2* begin by supplying evidence of the issue in one or two sentences
 |  |
| ANAYLSIS #2* this group of sentences explains how the first reference proves the thesis
* this group of sentences *analyzes* the relevance of the first reference
 |  |
| EXAMPLE #3* begin by supplying evidence of the issue in one or two sentences
 |  |
| ANAYLSIS #3* this group of sentences explains how the first reference proves the thesis
* this group of sentences *analyzes* the relevance of the first reference
 |  |
| CONCLUDING SENTENCE* this sentence wraps up the paragraph
* often a simple re-wording of the topic sentence
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