

The Core Structure
History Department Essay Writing Format

Always use the following format in organizing your essay. A predictable format will make it easier for the reader to extract information from your essay. Use the question as a logical cue as to how the essay should be organized (categories). **USE THE CORE STRUCTURE.**

- I. Well developed thesis statement that **directly answers the question, takes a position (interpretation), and establishes organizational categories.** Your thesis statement should NOT be longer than two sentences.
 - A. Most important topic sentence which introduces the category to be discussed, **directly answers the question, and takes a position on this particular category.**
 1. Most important specific factual information (SFI), which demonstrates **both** knowledge of the material **and an understanding of how this information supports the thesis (interpretive commentary).**
 2. Next most important same as above. **Interpretive commentary.**
 3. Next most important same as above. **Interpretive commentary.**
 4. Next most important same as above. **Interpretive commentary.**
Clincher sentence which ties the paragraph directly back to the thesis.
 - B. Next most important topic sentence which introduces the category to be discussed, **directly answers the question, and takes a position on this particular category.**
 1. Most important specific factual information (SFI) which demonstrates **both** knowledge of the material **and an understanding of how this information supports your thesis (interpretive commentary).**
 2. Next most important same as above. **Interpretive commentary.**
 3. Next most important same as above. **Interpretive commentary.**
 4. Next most important same as above. **Interpretive commentary.**
Clincher sentence which ties the paragraph directly back to the thesis.
 - C. Next most important topic sentence which introduces the category to be discussed, **directly answers the question, and takes a position on this particular category.**
 1. Most important specific factual information (SFI) which demonstrates **both** knowledge of the material **and an understanding of how this information supports your thesis (interpretive commentary).**
 2. Next most important same as above. **Interpretive commentary.**
 3. Next most important same as above. **Interpretive commentary.**
 4. Next most important same as above. **Interpretive commentary.**
Clincher sentence which ties the paragraph directly back to the thesis.

Repeat A, B, and C as many times as necessary to completely answer the question.

- II. Conclusion which restates the thesis in different words.