

The Thesis Formula:

X. However, A, B, and C. Therefore, Y.

OR

Although X, Y because ABC.

Formula adapted for the BIG FOUR Historical Thinking Skills

1. Historical Causation (Cause and Effect):

What are the major causes or consequences of “event” and what were the most important causes or consequences of “event”?

X = least important cause or consequence, with an explanation why

A, B, C = most important causes / consequences, explanations why, broken up thematically

Y = your assertion statement

2. Continuity and Change over Time:

What are the major patterns of continuity or change over the time period and was there more continuity or change over that time period?

X = continuity or change, your counter-argument

A, B, C = continuity or change during the specified time period, broken up thematically

Y = your assertion statement

3. Compare and Contrast:

What similarities and differences are there between the two things, are there more similarities or differences, and why, account for those similarities or differences?

X = more similar or different, your counter-argument

A, B, C = similarities or differences between two things, broken up thematically

Y = your assertion statement

4. Periodization | (or Take a Position → Turning Points):

Evaluate whether something was a turning point or a major marking period in history, noting what things were like before and after that period.

X = counter argument, why something was or was not a turning point

A, B, C = argument, why something was a turning point broken up thematically

Y = your assertion statement

Strategy for Short Answer Questions: ACE it.

Each part of an SAQ should be answered with a minimum of 3 sentences. Label clearly, answer the question, be brief (2-3 sentences per section).

A – Answer—Directly answer the question by identifying your claim.

C – Cite—Briefly define/describe your claim.

E – Expand—Connect your claim through historical context.

SPICE – Historical Themes to Be Analyzed

S- Social

P- Political

I – Interaction

C- Culture

E- Economic

Document usage in the DBQ - HIPP

H: Historical Context + **I:** Intended Audience or **P:** Purpose or **P:** Point of View

Conclusion Formula:

Therefore, Y + BC.

Y = your thesis

BC = Broad Context... what is the big picture within the era you are writing about... (identify one of the major historical themes – SPICE)

TACO for DBQ & TEAC for LEQ - Essay Structure & MCQs

Thesis

Analysis

Contextualization

Outside Info

Thesis

Evidence

Analysis

Contextualization

MCQs: Read questions and think of an answer BEFORE you look at the documents. Then use hints on the document to help you with the question (author, date, and where it was published)

