

Writing APUSH Essays

The Thesis Statement

Constructing the Thesis Statement

- 1. Read the question carefully
- 2. brainstorm information you know that is related to the subject.
- 3. What groups or categories can you form from your brainstorming? (These will be the foundation of the key points in your thesis).
 - Think PERSIA -- Politics, Economics, Religion, Social, Intellectual, Arts/culture

Thesis Format

- X = the strongest point “against” your thesis
- A, B, C = the three strongest points for your argument
- Y = the position you are taking.

- **Thesis formula: X, However, because of A, B, and C, Y**

- Question: Analyze the events of the 14th century in terms of their impact on European culture.

- **Ex: The 14th century was a time of great upheaval and numerous crises in Europe, all of which influenced European society. However, the Hundred Years War, the Black Death, and the Schism in the Roman Catholic Church undoubtedly had the greatest impact on the social and political structure of Europe.**

“Analyze the ways in which the Vietnam War heightened social, political, and economic tensions in the United States. Focus your answer on the period 1964-1975”

First Step – Brainstorm and categorize

Social	Political	Economic
<p>Growing unrest and disenchantment over why the war was being fought</p>	<p>Who should run the war and how should it be waged</p>	<p>How much should we spend to win the war</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Panthers • Great Society • War on Poverty • Hippies • Woodstock • Bob Dylan • Tet Offensive • Walter Cronkite • Kent State • Pentagon Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective Service • 26th Amendment • Silent Majority • Peace with Honor • Vietnamization • Hawks vs. Doves • Eugene McCarthy • War Powers Act • Gulf of Tonkin Resolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recession • Stagflation • New Nationalism • Revenue Sharing • Gas Rationing • Guns and Butter

Second Step: Write the Thesis– Don't be **too general** or too specific.

- The Vietnam War was only one phase in a greater struggle with communism that ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union. However, there was an increase in social, political and economic tensions in the United States from 1964 to 1975 that ultimately damaged American's confidence in themselves and their government.

- **What is wrong with this thesis?**

Write the Thesis– Don't be **too general** or **too specific**.

- The Vietnam War was only one phase in a greater struggle with communism that ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union. However, during the period of 1964 to 1975 Black Panthers rioted, a great rift divided the country over the Great Society's war on poverty, and the economic ability to continue the war, college sit-ins plagued the college campuses, Hippies and the Silent Majority continued to clash over America's role in international affairs, and the Congress and the President fought over the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and the War Powers Act with regard

to just how much power each should have in waging a war, that ultimately damaged American's confidence in themselves and their government.

- **What is wrong with this thesis?**

Write the Thesis– Don't be **too general** or **too specific**

- The Vietnam war was only one phase in a great struggle with communism that ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union. However, during the period 1964 to 1975 America was racked by the growing unrest and disenchantment over why the war was being fought ,

who should run it and how it should be waged, and how much American economic investment should be expended into winning the war that ultimately damaged American's confidence in themselves and their government.

How is this thesis different from the first two?

Practice

- Consider your summer reading, and create a thesis for the following questions:

Defend or refute the following statement:

“The Plymouth Colony should be considered a great American success story.”

1. Brainstorm and categorize

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Summary of category 1	Summary of category 2	Summary of category 3
Examples: A B C Etc.	Examples: A B C Etc.	Examples: A B C Etc.

2. Write your thesis.

- Use: “X. However Because of A, B, and C, Y”
- Don't be too general or too specific.

Turn in on Tuesday, August 27

- **1. Your finalized Brainstorm/Category table**
- **2. Your thesis statement.**