

## HOW TO WRITE AP HISTORY “LONG ESSAYS”

### 1. How to Write a Causes and/or Effects Long Essay for AP History

**Paragraph 1:** (thesis) “There were many causes (and/or effects) of name the event. Causes (and/or effects) included (name at least 2 from one—and if Q asks for both C&E, add one example from the other category.) But perhaps the most important of these (C or E) was \_\_\_\_\_.”

\*\*\*if Q asks for Causes **OR** Effects, do paragraph 2 but not 3

**Paragraph 2: Define the event:** WHEN did it happen? WHO was involved?/WHAT was its significance? Then: **Discuss as many causes (or effects)** of the event as you can think of. Start with the one that you think is the **MOST** significant cause and tell why. Next, **WHY** did each of these factors cause (or was an effect of) the event? Be specific.

\*\*\*If Q asks for Causes **AND** Effects, include paragraph 3)

**Paragraph 3: Discuss as many effects/outcomes/consequences** of the event as you can think of. Start with the one that you think is the **MOST significant** effect and tell **WHY**. **Next, WHY** were each of these factors an effect of the event? (Long term effects into another era are encouraged)

**Paragraph 4: Discuss a similar/different event** from another time or place in history...OR...Discuss how **another** field (literature, art, politics, society, religion, economics e.g.) of the era reflects the event.

**Paragraph 5:** (2nd chance at thesis) Write a conclusion that summarizes all parts of the question, with specificity, like in your thesis but worded differently.

### 2. How to Write a Comparison Long Essay for AP History

**Paragraph 1:** (thesis) “Many similarities and differences exist between (name the 2 trends, events or time periods of the question—“x and y”) in regards to (name THE tasks of THE question). For example, there were similarities in provide an example and differences in provide **two** examples.”

**Paragraph 2:** Perhaps the **greatest similarity** between (x and y) was \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_. Other similarities include (name as many similarities as you can think of). They were similar **because** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Paragraph 3:** Perhaps the **greatest difference** between (x and y) was \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_. Other differences include (discuss as many relevant, specific differences) as possible. They were different **because** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Paragraph 4:** Discuss a similar/different event **from another time or place** in history...OR...Discuss how **another** field (literature, art, politics, society, religion, economics e.g.) of the era reflects the event.

#### Paragraph 5

(2nd chance at Thesis) Conclude with a summary that accurately reflects all the terms of the question, with specificity. In other words, re-write your thesis in another way.

### 3. How to Write a CCOT Long Essay for AP History

**Paragraph 1:** (thesis) “There were many continuities and changes in (insert the dates of the question)in(insert all tasks of the question). Continuities included (1 specific example) and changes were in (2 specific examples). “

**Paragraph 2:** Continuities in **insert the terms of the question** in this era included: **discuss as many specific examples you can think of.** Perhaps the most important continuity was \_\_\_\_\_because\_\_\_\_\_. These remained the same over time **because** \_\_\_\_\_. **Provide as many relevant examples as possible**

**Paragraph 3:** Changes in **insert all tasks of the question** in this era included: **discuss as many specific examples you can think of.** Perhaps the greatest change was\_\_\_\_because\_\_\_\_. These changed over time **because** \_\_\_\_\_. **Provide as many relevant examples as possible**

**Paragraph 4:** Discuss an event **from another time or place** in history that also changed or stayed the same...OR...Discuss how **another** field (literature, art, politics, society, religion, economics e.g.) of the era reflects a similarity or change that’s in your essay already.

**Paragraph 5:**(2nd chance at Thesis) Conclude with a summary that accurately reflects all the terms of the question, with specificity. In other words, re-write your thesis in another way.

#### **4. Periodization A: How to Write a Turning Point Long Essay for AP History**

This essay is kind of a CCOT and Comparison question at the same time. The basic structure of this essay is: society/government, etc., was like *this* until something (like a turning point) happened, and then it changed to *that*. Why did they change? And some things remained the same from one era to the next. Why did they continue?

**Paragraph 1:** (Thesis) “There were many reasons why *the terms of the question* (for example, a war) changed (society/government, etc) from (era 1) to (era 2). Some of these reasons were (v and w) but the greatest reason was (x). However, some things persisted, such as (y and z).” Include a brief description of the event/era/turning point

**Paragraph 2:** Set the stage **before** the turning point. What was (society, politics, economics, the environment—whatever *the terms of the question* are) like in the era just before? Link your examples only to *the terms of the question* . Provide as many specific examples as you can come up with.

**Paragraph 3:** Discuss the turning point. What was it? **How** did it lead to changes in *the terms of the question* in era 2? What was the greatest change in *the terms of the question* from era 1 to era 2?**WHY?**

**Paragraph 4:** What *persisted* from era 1 through era 2? Provide as many examples as you can think of. **WHY did it persist?AND:** How did art or literature of the era reflect changes **or** continuities between the eras? OR...In what ways were these processes similar in another era in history?

**Paragraph 5:** (2nd chance at Thesis) Conclude with a summary that accurately reflects all the terms of the question, with specificity. In other words, re-write your thesis in another way.

#### **5. Periodization B: How to Write a “Define the Era” Long Essay**