Modern European History

European Exploration

Activity Guidelines

**Introduction**

You will now expand on the research you have completed to write an outline for an essay that answers the following question:

*What are the three most important contributions this explorer made to the Age of Exploration?*

**A Thesis Statement**

*Remember, a thesis statement:*

tells the reader how you will interpret the significance of the subject matter under discussion.

is a road map for the essay; it tells the reader what to expect from the rest of the essay.

directly answers the question asked; a thesis is an *interpretation* of a subject, not the subject itself.

is a statement that someone could disagree with.

is a sentence somewhere in your introduction (first paragraph) that presents your argument to the reader.

*When creating your thesis, ask yourself the following:*

Does my thesis actually answer the question as asked?

Re-reading the question after creating your thesis can help you fix an argument that misses the focus of the question.

Have I taken a position that others might challenge or oppose?

If your thesis simply states facts that no one would, or even could, disagree with, it’s possible that you are simply providing a summary, rather than making an argument.

Is my thesis statement broad enough?

Thesis statements that are too specific often do not have a strong argument because it is difficult to add supporting details.

**Essay Outline Format**

Your thesis statement:

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Now write an outline for this basic thesis statement:

Argument #1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Evidence #2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Evidence #2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Argument #3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Now write your introductory paragraph; underline your thoroughly developed thesis.

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