Modern European History

European Exploration

Essay Outline Guidelines

**Task**

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

*Why is this explorer historically important?*

**Thesis Statement and Introduction**

The most important part of an essay is the thesis statement. As we discussed before, a thesis statement directly answers the essay question and is found somewhere in the introduction of the essay. Usually one sentence, the thesis is the compass that guides the reader (and writer) through the roadmap that is the essay; all points in the essay always return to (and support) the basic thesis statement.

The introductory paragraph contains the thesis as well as the major arguments set out in the thesis, identifying and explaining the main points of the essay without going into detail; it presents your thesis to the reader as well as giving them a general idea about the evidence that will be used to support each of your arguments. A thoroughly developed thesis exists only within the context of the arguments described in the introductory paragraph.

*Remember, a thesis statement:*

directly answers the question asked.

tells the reader your analysis and interpretation of the subject matter under discussion.

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

is a sentence somewhere in your introduction (first paragraph).

**Outline**

The outline itself is a larger road map for the entire essay. It breaks the thesis statement down into its major arguments and includes the basic supporting evidence for each of these arguments. Thorough essays have at least two pieces of specific evidence to fully and completely support each argument. This evidence needs to be specific, such as an event, piece of legislation, action, movement, etc.

Your thesis statement:

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

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

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