Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Honors World Studies II Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Unit 1 – Renaissance and Reformation

Protestant Reformation Thesis, Outline, and Introduction

**Process Example**

When discussing thesis statements earlier in the course, the question example we used was “What is the best movie of all time?” and the basic thesis was *“The best movie of all time is Forrest Gump.*” But *why* is Forrest Gump the best movie of all time? To write a five-paragraph answer to this question you will need to identify three arguments that would prove your thesis. The process went like this:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Identification of Topic**  the best movie of all time | **Statement of Your Opinion**    *Forrest Gump* is the best movie of all time. | **Supporting Arguments**  **REASON #1:**  *Forrest Gump* contains important themes.  **REASON #2:**  *Forrest Gump* contains true-to-life events.  **REASON #3:**  *Forrest Gump* is a character that the viewer can truly love. |
| **Thesis**  *Forrest Gump* is the best movie of all time because it contains important themes, true-to-life events, and a character that the viewer can truly love. | | |

But now we need to push that interpretation further – *What* important themes does Forrest Gump contain? *What* true-to-life events are included (and why is this important)? *In what ways* is Forrest Gump a character that the viewer can truly love (and, again, why is this important)?

**The Outline**

The outline is a larger road map for the essay and requires you to identify your thesis in even greater detail. 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.

Here’s what the essay outline might look like:

I. Basic Thesis:

*“Forrest Gump is the best movie of all time because it contains important themes, true-to-life events, and a character that the viewer can truly love.”*

II. *Forrest Gump* contains important themes.

1. good triumphs over bad
2. love conquers all

III. *Forrest Gump* contains true-to-life events.

A. Nathan Bedford Forrest/KKK

B. desegregation of the University of Alabama

IV. *Forrest Gump* is a character that the viewer can truly love.

A. physically disabled boy succeeds in life

B. mentally disabled boy is in many ways more intelligent than others

**The Introduction**

The introductory paragraph contains the thesis and major arguments of the essay as well as additional lead-in information about the general subject matter that will thoroughly develop the thesis. The introduction is the first part of your essay that your audience will read, so it’s important to make a good first impression. A weak introduction can cause readers to lose interest in your essay from the start, but a strong introduction will engage your readers and make them want to continue reading.

Keep in mind that your thesis statement is one of *many* possible answers to a question - there isn’t one right answer; there are strong and weak thesis statements and strong and weak uses of evidence.

Writers often sit down to an empty computer screen and struggle to write an introduction, and understandably so: they do not yet know what exactly it is that they are introducing. You should have a thesis statement in mind as you write an essay, but there is no reason to have to write the introduction before you begin writing the body paragraphs. It is often much easier to write an introduction when you can actually see what you are introducing.

Introductions generally are not longer than the body paragraphs. Developing ideas in depth should occur in the body paragraphs of an essay, not in the introduction. The primary purpose of an introduction is to simply introduce your essay.

The introductory paragraph for the *Forrest Gump* essay might look like this:

*“20th Century America was a difficult time and place for an individual to be disabled. Stereotypes and discrimination were abundant throughout the nation at this time, but were predominantly present in the deep southern state of Alabama. The movie* Forrest Gump, *set in just this type of environment, is truly the best movie of all time. Forrest, a physically and mentally disabled child born into this culture of racism and violence, proves that good can conquer evil and that love will in fact conquer all. This film entices the viewer’s interest with many true-to-life events, such as the role of Nathan Bedford Forrest in the founding of the KKK and the controversial desegregation of the University of Alabama, while revealing that Forrest is in many ways more intelligent than the others around him. In the end, the viewer will fall in love with the main character, who, despite his physical and mental shortcomings, truly succeeds in life.”*

Now use the process we learned to create a thesis statement to answer this question:

***What caused the Protestant Reformation?***

**Thesis**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Identification of Topic** | **Statement of Your Opinion** | **BROAD Arguments to Support Your Opinion**  **Argument #1:**  **Argument #2:**  **Argument #3:** |
| **Thesis**: | | |

**Outline**

|  |
| --- |
| Statement of Argument #1 |
| Evidence #1 |
| Evidence #2 |
|  |
| Statement of Argument #2 |
| Evidence #1 |
| Evidence #2 |
|  |
| Statement of Argument #3 |
| Evidence #1 |
| Evidence #2 |

Now write your introductory paragraph including your thoroughly developed thesis (underline the thesis).

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