PRE-WRITING: ANALYSIS AND EVIDENCE

Purpose

Practice gathering analysis and evidence to support an argument. You might do this to prepare for writing an essay, or simply to practice choosing the best evidence to support an argument.

Process

1. Review the Analysis and Evidence portion of the OER Project Writing Rubric below. Keep these criteria in mind as you complete the chart on the next page.

Cite appropriate and valid evidence to support the claim, drawing information from multiple sources to defend the position and effectively refute counterclaims.
Describe the relationship between the broader historical context and the topic.
Use historical reasoning and thoroughly explain how the evidence supports the claim.
Use discipline-specific vocabulary—such as key terms from the lesson, unit, or course—to support analysis.
Demonstrate understanding of the sources, acknowledging inconsistencies or weaknesses in evidence, and fully explain the relationship between the claim and the evidence used to support it.

2. Write the thesis/major claim you will be using in response to this prompt: *How did the Columbian Exchange transform the Americas from c. 1500 to 1750 CE?*

My thesis/major claim:

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3. Follow the instructions in the table to help you decide the kinds of evidence you'll use to support your analysis.

Supporting claim #1:	
Step 1: Supporting claim #1 1. Write a supporting claim that supports your major claim/thesis.	1.
Step 2: Evidence 1. Which of the sources (documents, images, charts, maps) you've read will best support the supporting claim in Step 1? 2. Write down the specific evidence you will use from the document in support of your supporting claim. Remember to add quotes when needed. 3. Write a brief summary stating why this evidence is helpful in understanding your supporting claim.	1. Citation 2. 3.
Step 3: Reason 1. Write one or two sentences explaining how the evidence you found supports your supporting claim. Remember, if you aren't quoting directly from the source, be sure to use your own words to describe the supporting evidence.	

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Supporting claim #2:	
Step 1: Supporting claim #2 1. Write a supporting claim that supports your major claim/thesis.	1.
Step 2: Evidence 1. Which of the sources (documents, images, charts, maps) you've read will best support the supporting claim in step 1? 2. Write down the specific evidence you will use from the document in support of your supporting claim. Remember to add quotes when needed. 3. Write a brief summary stating why this evidence is helpful in understanding your supporting claim.	1. Citation 2. 3.
Step 3: Reason 1. Write one or two sentences explaining how the evidence you found supports your supporting claim. Remember, if you aren't quoting directly from the source, be sure to use your own words to describe the supporting evidence.	

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Supporting claim #3:	
Step 1: Supporting claim #3 1. Write a supporting claim that supports your major claim/thesis.	1.
Step 2: Evidence 1. Which of the sources (documents, images, charts, maps) you've read will best support the supporting claim in Step 1? 2. Write down the specific evidence you will use from the document in support of your supporting claim. Remember to add quotes when needed. 3. Write a brief summary stating why this evidence is helpful in understanding your supporting claim.	1. Citation 2. 3.
Step 3: Reason 1. Write one or two sentences explaining how the evidence you found supports your supporting claim. Remember, if you aren't quoting directly from the source, be sure to use your own words to describe the supporting evidence.	