

Writing Activity #5

Directions: Today we will be practicing writing a strong thesis. Below you will find three different LEQ prompts and you will practice writing a complex thesis and will get scored for each component being used correctly.

PROMPT I: Compare and contrast the ways that many Americans expressed their opposition to immigrants in the 1840s—1850s with the ways that many Americans expressed their opposition to immigrants in the 1910s—1920s.

1. Identify the Historical Thinking Skill: (circle one) Comparison, CCOT, Causation, Periodization
2. Write a complex thesis being sure to include: counterclaim, claim and organization
 - a. Use the formula!
Although [counterclaim] ..., [claim] ... because of A, B, and C [organization]

PROMPT II: Analyze the reasons for the emergence of the Populist movement in the late 19th century.

1. Identify the Historical Thinking Skill: (circle one) Comparison, CCOT, Causation, Periodization
2. Write a complex thesis being sure to include: counterclaim, claim and organization
 - a. Use the formula!
Although [counterclaim] ..., [claim] ... because of A, B, and C [organization]

PROMPT III: Analyze how western expansion contributed to growing sectional tensions between the North and the South. Confine your answer to the period from 1800 to 1850.

1. Identify the Historical Thinking Skill: (circle one) Comparison, CCOT, Causation, Periodization
2. Write a complex thesis being sure to include: counterclaim, claim and organization
 - a. Use the formula!
Although [counterclaim] ..., [claim] ... because of A, B, and C [organization]

PART IV: Partner Commentary:

Share your thesis statements with a partner. Your partner must evaluate each of your three thesis statements and provide commentary as to how you can improve it for the next time you write an essay.

A. Prompt I:

- a. On a scale of 1-10 how effective was their counterclaim?
- b. On a scale of 1-10 how effective was their claim?
- c. On a scale of 1-10 how effective was their organization?
- d. How can they improve their thesis statement?

B. Prompt II

- a. On a scale of 1-10 how effective was their counterclaim?
- b. On a scale of 1-10 how effective was their claim?
- c. On a scale of 1-10 how effective was their organization?
- d. How can they improve their thesis statement?

C. Prompt III

- a. On a scale of 1-10 how effective was their counterclaim?
- b. On a scale of 1-10 how effective was their claim?
- c. On a scale of 1-10 how effective was their organization?
- d. How can they improve their thesis statement?