

INTRODUCTION BUILDER

Name the TIME PERIOD. This can be the name of the era (Dark Ages), a time span (1941-1945), or a century (early 1600's, the eighteenth century):

The 1700's were tempestuous times for the relationship between the colonies and Great Britain.

Name the LOCATION and give a SUMMARY STATEMENT about what was going on at the time:

The British were upsetting the colonists with multiple acts and proclamations while also disregarding rights of their people.

Note the BACKGROUND INFORMATION your reader will need to understand the essay. This is the contextual info that you will turn into 2 - 3 sentences:

The British and colonists had just fought in the French and Indian War and the cost of beating the mighty French nation had cost a lot. Britain was now in large financial debt. Acts and proclamations were passed onto the colonists to help pay for this huge debt, but they weren't happy.

Write a transition into your thesis. If you can't think of one, write down the thesis, and then look at the background information. How can you lead the reader from the general information to the specific point you intend to prove?

Whispers of a revolution began to float around the colonies and soon total chaos ensued.

Thesis: This should already have been approved. Write it here:

The Revolutionary War was caused by the British ignoring the colonists, the British stunting the growth of the colonists, and the British violating the privacy of the colonists.

Name: _____

INTRODUCTIONS FOR FORMAL HISTORICAL ESSAYS

In a formal essay for history, you need to set the context for your reader – in other words, you need to help the reader locate him/herself in time and place, so that s/he s/he understands what you're going to discuss in depth later on in your essay. If you write a strong enough introduction, someone with NO background knowledge about your topic should be able to read and understand your essay.

First sentence – give time period and location. Make a general statement about what was going on at the time. Use the prompt (if you have one) to help you with this!

Second/third sentence/s – Give any background information the reader will need to keep in mind in order to understand the topic. This also can reflect the prompt.

Connecting sentence – start leading into your thesis statement/s.

Thesis – make sure it is DIRECTLY RELATED to your prompt!

Example:

Introduction for a World History essay on the question, What were the major developments in art during the Renaissance?:

The 1500s was an era of enormous growth and change in Italy. The Renaissance period, which means “rebirth,” saw a renewed interest in ideas from classical Greek, Roman, and Arab societies. Knowledge that had been lost in the “Dark Ages” was rediscovered and new forms of art and architecture were created.

Powerful Italian families supported a

number of famous artists whose work is still admired today. Artists like Michelangelo Buonarotti and Leonardo Da Vinci combined new techniques involving perspective and use of light with classical elements to create masterpieces of artwork.

Time and place

Background the reader needs to understand the essay – may be able to use info from the prompt here!

Connect the background to the thesis

Previewing major points thesis –
New techniques + classical elements +
masterpieces