

APUSH History Essay Critique

The purposes of this reading are to identify the question the author is trying to answer, identify the author's thesis and arguments, identify errors and organizational structure.

Preparation:

1. Read the essay.
 2. Annotate the essay using the list of purposes above.
 3. Answer these questions on the essay on a separate sheet of paper:
 - What's the question the author is answering?
 - Write the question in your own words.
 - What sentence represents the author's thesis statement?
 - What are the main arguments the author uses to support his thesis?
 - Identify a point the author makes, the evidence he used to support it, and his analysis of the evidence.
 - How would you describe the errors & organization in this essay? What could be changed to help the reader understand the purpose more clearly?
 - Do I agree or disagree with this author's argument?
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Essay Format

Introduction:

- Historical context
- Author's purpose and thesis

Body

- Main arguments
- Analysis of evidence

Conclusion

- Evaluation of organization and structure
- My viewpoint