

Writing for History

Journals: Each day, you will have a journal writing assignment either on the board or the Smart board. Depending on what the assignment is, you will have five to ten minutes to complete at the beginning of the period. This will be kept in your notebook in order from start to end dates. On test days, I will check your notebook to see that you have completed these journal entries. Notebooks may be spot checked unannounced at any time. It is expected that you will start on these as soon as the bell rings. This will be done on paper.

Essay Writing: During the week, you will write more than one essay, but at the end of the week, you will decide which essay to turn in for a writing grade. The remaining essays will be checked for completion. This will be done on paper.

Historical Writing:

Editorial: An editorial does not use “I” but takes a position on a subject and explains why.

News Account: A news account is like a news report. It answers the questions who, what, when, where, why, and how. It is written in 3rd person.

Eyewitness Account: An eyewitness account is a first-person account describing what you saw or heard.

Letter to the editor: Takes a point of view for or against something and explains why. It may or may not be in the first-person.

Analyze, Infer, Evaluate: These terms mean that you must think about the question and answer the question using information that you have learned or researched. It is not simply stringing sentences together. An

example would be: Why or how something occurred, What are effects and causes, etc.

Summarize or Describe: This means to simply summarize what you know about a subject. This is the simplest form.

Compare and Contrast: Analyze how things are similar AND different.

Basic Essay: The basic essay for this class is written in 3-5 paragraphs.

The Introduction: The introductory paragraph contains the THESIS statement or statement which explains what your paper is about. It is not written in the first person. It is not usually the first sentence. It may list the reasons you are going to explain in later paragraphs.

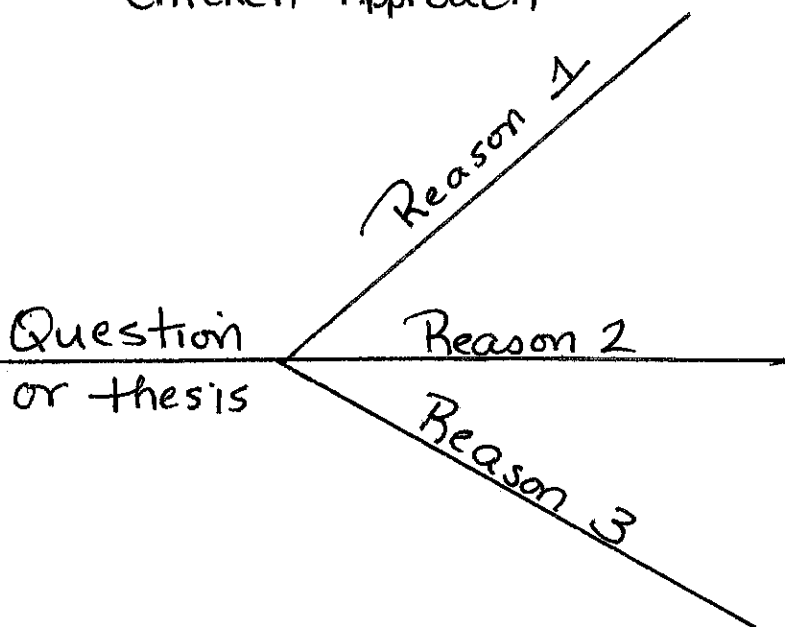
Body Paragraphs: The body paragraphs contain the reasons to support your thesis. Each body paragraph has a thesis statement of its own that explains what you are going to say to support the main essay. These are your reasons or evidence.

Transitional Words: Separate your paragraphs using transitional words and phrases like; First, Next, Finally, etc.

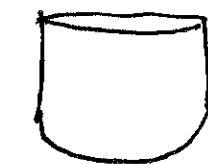
Conclusion: The conclusion summarizes the essay in brief and may restate the thesis.

How to: PLAN

Chicken Approach



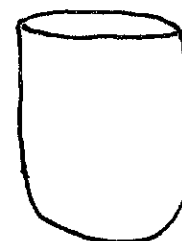
Bucket Approach



Reason 1



Reason 2



Reason 3

Fill your bucket with your supporting evidence