

## Free Response Organization

The Free Response Essay requires extensive outside “mainstream history” knowledge. The AP test will give you an essay question, and you must pull in all outside information, combined with referencing secondary works (readings, pamphlets, cartoons, letters, etc, which are NOT provided). When outlining your essay, it should look similar to this format.

1. First, write your thesis. What is your opinion on the subject (and you *must* have one)? What do you wish to convince the reader? Which way will you argue? And remember, your thesis sentence should be the last paragraph of your first sentence (or at the latest, the first sentence in the second paragraph).  
**YOU NEED A THESIS SENTENCE!!!!**
2. Once you have a thesis, write down 3 major topics that you will use to support your thesis. What 3 items will you use to support your argument, as you try and convince the reader of your thesis? Once chosen, write a sentence for each one.
3. Once you have written 3 major topic sentences, each supporting your thesis, then write down facts for each topic sentence. You should rank the 4 most important facts for each topic sentence, and incorporate those into your paragraph.
4. Each of the 3 topic sentences is actually the argument of each of the three main paragraphs where you will argue in support of your thesis, using your important facts for each sentence, while also refuting the obverse position.
5. Create a clincher paragraph that pulls all 3 together topic sentences together, while also displaying how your thesis brings you to the next historical era.