

WRITING A POSITION PAPER IN U.S. HISTORY

Question Ex: *Analyze and explain two events that led to the Great Depression. Use a Core Democratic Value in your answer.*

- 1. Always begin with your thesis in the first paragraph!!!!!! Your Thesis is a clearly stated position on a question or issue.**

The 1920's in America were a time of prosperity and new wealth, with citizen's spending money and partying as they hadn't before. *However, investing on speculation combined with a violent stock market crash triggered a depression that would change the lives of thousands.*

- 2. Core Democratic Value – for some essays, you must have this one. You must connect your CDV with your position, and tell the reader how it fits.**

During the 1920's, people followed their dreams in their pursuit of happiness, investing all they had in the stock market. Quite often, citizens took out loans for the sole purpose of investing, hoping to fulfill their dreams of riches and happiness..

- 3. Use outside knowledge you have learned from your history class.**

The speculation idea works here if you used a different CDV. Or, you could write a paragraph explaining the stock market crash, or Black Tuesday.

- 4. Provide an opposing argument, and refute that argument.**

Others might argue that over production was the most important factor that led to the great depression. And although there was serious over production of goods during this time, it did not cause people to invest their life savings, or wiped out their life savings.

- 5. Data Section – use information from the data sections (graphs, charts) as evidence to help your argument.**

For some essays, if there is no data section, just use more historical knowledge. If this is the case, do this before you refute the opposing argument.

- 6. Give a conclusion where you restate your thesis.**