

HISTORICAL ARGUMENTATION & PERIODIZATION... *The Missouri Compromise*

Periodization

Historical thinking involves the ability to describe, analyze, and evaluate different ways that historians divide history into discrete and definable periods. Historians construct and debate different, sometimes competing models of periodization; the choice of specific turning points or starting and ending dates might accord a higher value to one narrative, region, or group than to another.

Addressing a Periodization (or Take a Position) Prompt:

Evaluate whether something was a turning point or a major marking period in history, noting what things were like before and after that period.

formula #1: Although X, Y because ABC.

X = counter argument, why something was or was not a turning point explained thoroughly with a piece of specific evidence
 A, B, C = argument, why something was a turning point broken up into organizational categories
 Y = your assertion statement

formula #2: X. However A and B. Therefore, Y.

X = counter argument, why something was /was not a turning point – linked to a theme or organizational category which will also be topic of first body paragraph
 A, B = argument, why something was a turning point broken up into organizational categories (topics of your 2nd and 3rd body paragraphs)
 Y = your assertion statement

From the 2015 Revised Framework:

Key Concept 4.3: The U.S. interest in increasing foreign trade and expanding its national borders shaped the nation's foreign policy and spurred government and private initiatives.

II. The United States's acquisition of lands in the West gave rise to contests over the extension of slavery into new territories.

- A) As over-cultivation depleted arable land in the Southeast, slaveholders began relocating their plantations to more fertile lands west of the Appalachians, where the institution of slavery continued to grow.
- B) Antislavery efforts increased in the North, while in the South, although the majority of Southerners owned no slaves, most leaders argued that slavery was part of the Southern way of life.
- C) Congressional attempts at political compromise, such as the **Missouri Compromise**, only temporarily stemmed growing tensions between opponents and defenders of slavery.

POL-2.0: Explain how popular movements, reform efforts, and activist groups have sought to change American society and institutions.

WXT-1.0: Explain how different labor systems developed in North America and the United States, and explain their effects on workers' lives and U.S. society.

CUL-4.0: Explain how different group identities, including racial, ethnic, class, and regional identities, have emerged and changed over time.

GEO-1.0: Explain how geographic and environmental factors shaped the development of various communities, and analyze how competition for and debates over natural resources have affected both interactions among different groups and the development of government policies.

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Step #1 Read the question or prompt carefully:

Read the question three times and be able to paraphrase the question and know the essential task demanded by it. Answering the question will be the central focus of your essay, and you want to be sure to ATFP:
Address The Full Prompt.

Prompt: To what extent was the Missouri Compromise of 1820 a major turning point in the development of regional identities, economies, and cultures for those living in the United States during the early 19th century?

Step #2 Brainstorm below everything that comes to mind regarding the topic at hand. Aim for at least 5 specific things.

What do you know about the topic? What is the era/context? If it is a turning point, then what exactly changed? (*Turning point from _____ to _____?*)

Put this down on paper to get your brain generating ideas and content before writing the essay. Once you have ample information, categorize it by theme. (ABC)

Step #3 Clarify your thesis/view and identify an opposing view. Which formula will you use? Make sure your thesis ATFP! Don't restate the prompt! Include EXTENT! When you're sure you're ready... write your introductory paragraph.