

## Continuity and Change in History: Essay Assignment

Mr. Kersey

### Learn the Skill

Historical change is almost always a product of one or more of the following forces:

1. cooperation and conflict—between tribes, religious or political groups, or countries
2. cultural invention and interaction—including traditions, religion, and local customs
3. geography and environment—mountains, farm land, rivers and oceans, trade routes
4. science and technology—especially in manufacturing, weapons, and farming methods
5. economic opportunity—good jobs, the attractions of wealth
6. the impact of individuals—Caesar, Alexander the Great, Theodore Roosevelt
7. nationalism and imperialism—independence, borders, empires
8. political and social systems—governments, slavery, persecution

### Apply the Skill

Select and research either a major current event, a major recent event, or a major event we have learned about this year. Write an essay explaining which of the forces of continuity and change apply to the event. You should discuss at least two themes (forces), and you must discuss each theme in at least a paragraph. Be sure to use specific examples to help explain why a theme applies to your event. Make sure to also briefly explain your event before you discuss your themes.

### The Details

Your essay should be at least four paragraphs. Use your best spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. Please type your essay. You must include a bibliography in MLA format at the end of your paper.

### Format for Essay

Format your essay using the following guide.

**Paragraph #1:** Introduce your current/historical event. Briefly explain your event. In the last sentence of this paragraph identify at least two forces in history that have caused your event.

**Paragraph #2:** Explain the first force in history that caused your current/historical event.

**Paragraph #3:** Explain the second force in history that caused your current/historical event.

**Paragraph x:** *Explain the third, fourth, etc. forces in history that have caused your current/historical event if you have more than two.*

**Paragraph #4:** Summarize your essay in a concluding paragraph.

(See other side for rubric).

**Rubric**

This essay applies to the History and Social Studies Skills and Methods standards. It is worth 25 points for each standard.

A/A- Your essay is excellent. You do a great job of briefly explaining your event. You correctly identify and explain at least two themes in history that apply to the event you have selected, and you provide meaningful details to support your selections. Your essay is free of errors in spelling, grammar, etc. Your bibliography is done in proper MLA format.

B/B- Your essay is very well done. You do a good job of briefly explaining your event. You correctly identify and explain at least two themes in history that apply to the event you have selected, and you provide meaningful details to support your selections. Your essay is nearly free of errors in spelling, grammar, etc. Your bibliography is done in proper MLA format.

C/C- Your essay is average. You briefly explain your event. You correctly identify and explain at least two themes in history that apply to the event you have selected. You may not have adequately explained your selections. You may not have meaningful or relevant details to support your selections, but you do have some. You may have more than one or two spelling or grammar errors. Your bibliography may contain a mistake or two.

D/F Your essay is below average or worse. You have not completed the assignment according to the requirements. Please re-write your essay according to the guidelines provided.