

USI HONORS
APUSH Skills
Summer 2019
Ms. Rendek

Argumentation

All written responses for USI Honors should develop a clear and concise argument that is then supported with historical evidence. When writing a paragraph response (or a body paragraph for an essay) your argument will be outlined in the topic sentence. When writing an essay, the argument will be outlined in the thesis statement, which will be the last sentence of the introduction paragraph.

A solid argument will be debatable, yet defensible with historical evidence. All of the historical skills listed below will require that you develop a strong, clear, and concrete argument.

Comparison → Describe, compare, contrast, and evaluate two or more historical developments

In order to effectively utilize the comparison skill, you will need to look at a historical event, phenomenon, or development from multiple perspectives. By doing so, you can develop complex conclusions about that event.

When you engage in comparison, you may examine several historical developments within:

- one society or between different societies
- the same period or different time periods
- the same geographic context or varied geographical contexts.

Thus, you **MUST** read the question carefully before you begin to develop your response.

Causation → identify, analyze, and evaluate (as both causes and effects) the relationships between historical events.

Students should try to distinguish between the following:

- Immediate cause - an event that serves as a catalyst or a "spark" for the examined phenomenon → ex: the assassination of Franz Ferdinand in 1914 was a "spark" for WWI
- Proximate cause - an event that could be most directly linked to the examined phenomenon → ex: Austria-Hungary's declaration of war on Serbia ended peace in Europe and activated a series of alliances
- Underlying or long term cause(s) - how a series of events over time lead to the phenomenon → ex: MAIN (increases in militarism, alliances, imperialism, and nationalism) led to WWI

Note: You will need to distinguish between causation and correlation. You should be able to illustrate direct causal relationships in your argument through use of historical evidence.