

The 45-minute Essay (Paper 2/3 or Timed Write

Introduction

- Strongly worded opening sentence
- Identify the question/prompt & command term
- Refine the scope (outline the limits)
- Clearly define arguments (one sentence per argument)
- Cite sources (documents, assignments, etc.)
- Thesis (single sentence that clearly addresses

Argumentative Thesis Statements

In an argumentative paper, you are making a claim about a topic and justifying this claim with reasons and evidence. This will tell your audience:

• Your claim or assertion

the prompt)

- The reasons/evidence that support this claim
- The order in which you will be presenting

your reasons and evidence

Questions to ask yourself when writing an argumentative thesis statement:

- What is my claim or assertion?
- What are the reasons I have to support my claim or assertion?
- In what order should I present my reasons?

Essay Body

- Topic sentence for each paragraph
- One main idea/claim per paragraph
- Clear and specific historical facts
- Critical analysis of facts (How and Why?)
- Relevance of the evidence presented

Historical Context

This is the supplemental information which provides a framework for your historical evidence. It aids in the reader's further understanding of the content by showing the writers depth and breadth of knowledge. Content must have a direct correlation to the arguments. 2-3 three sentences per argument.

Arguments

Depending on the nature of the question, you might use two to four arguments. Make the arguments as specific as possible.

Historical Facts

For each argument/claim you should provide three to five specific facts/pieces of evidence.

Critical Analysis

For each historical fact/piece of evidence you should provide at least one sentence of critical analysis, where you explain why this fact or piece of evidence supports your claim/thesis.

Counter Argument (may be optional, depending on the prompt)

An argument which opposes the thesis/claim of your essay. This will undermine the main argument and must be disproven (proven false) to establish a valid argument. This should only

be attempted with a strong and well-structured argument.

Historiography

Historiography is the historical lens through which history has been written. This application of analysis is required to obtain the highest mark bands of an IB essay. Either the methods or principles used in the study of history, or the written result.

Conclusion & Final Thought

A conclusion is the final section of an essay in which the writer ties together what was presented in the passage, summing up the main point, explaining how the thesis was proven, and successfully closing the discussion.

- Reworded thesis
- Restated arguments
- Establish a clear concluding idea
 - A final thought; a final insightful comment, quote, or idea.

Specific Sentence Starters by Type

Argument:

The evidence and examples support the argument that... The reason why...

Evidence:

For example, In addition, ...

Analysis:

The evidence illustrates that ... which proves ... because ... This proves ... because ... This connects to the previous point ... because ...

Counter Argument:

People who disagree might claim that ... (state the opposing argument), however ... Some may argue that ...
Some historians disagree/argue/underestimate...

The A-B-C's of Writing

A - Attack the prompt

- Circle the verb. Are you asked to explain, discuss, compare & contrast, trace, defend?
- Underline the subject. What is this about: two characters, a theme, an event, two events?
 - o Ex. Compare and contrast the theme of love in *Harry Potter*, and *Twilight*.
 - Verb: compare and contrast
 - Subject: theme of love in *Harry Potter* and *Twilight*
 - Ex. What was the most significant cause of the Civil War? Defend your answer using facts and analysis.
 - Verb: defend
 - Subject: cause of the Civil War

B - Brainstorm

- Start writing down and organizing all the possible responses and related facts and issues that need to be addressed
 - Example:

Ron and Hermione fall in love gradually. They don't like each other at first. He thinks she's annoying and she thinks he's dumb. By the end of the first book, they are friends. By the 4th book, they become jealous of each other's love interests, like when Hermione goes to the ball with Viktor Krum and Ron sulks for the rest of the night. They finally reveal their love for each other at the end of the final book.

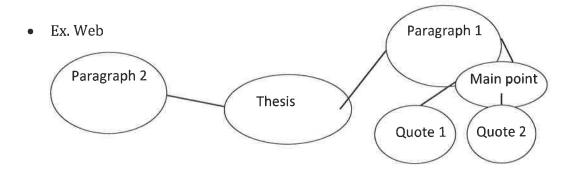
Bella and Edward fall in love almost instantly and very passionately. They are physically attracted to each other. Edward likes that Bella isn't afraid of him. Bella is intrigued by Edward's mysteriousness and beauty. Bella's attachment to Edward nearly kills her. While she is better friends with Jacob, she still loves Edward more and puts herself in dangerous situations because of this love. Edward tries to distance himself because he knows he is dangerous for Bella.

They are different kinds of love. Ron and Hermione's is based on years of friendship and understanding. They are independent people, but work together well. Bella and Edward's relationship is based on passion and attraction and Bella is completely dependent on Edward.

C – Choose the Order of Response

- Organize your brainstorming into a logical response to the prompt.
- You can use an outline format or a web, whatever works for you.
 - o Ex. Outline
 - 1) Intro paragraph
 - a) Background of two books
 - b) Thesis statement: While the theme of love is present in both *Harry Potter* and *Twilight*, love is portrayed very differently in both. In *Harry Potter* love is based on friendship and respect, while in *Twilight*, love is based on passion. This difference is illustrated by the relationships of Ron and Hermione and Bella and Edward.
 - 2) 1st Paragraph some similarities of love

- a) In both, there is a strong belief that love can conquer evil
 - i) Harry's love from his parents and his love for his friends eventually defeats Voldemort.
 - (1) Quote one
 - (2) Quote two
 - ii) The love of Bella and Edward and the love in the Cullen family allows them to be victorious.
 - (1) Quote one
 - (2) Quote two



D - Detect Errors

- After you've finished writing, go back and look for errors. Maybe you missed a word or misspelled a word, maybe you switched from present to past tense half-way through, maybe you used a period instead of a comma.
 - Ex. In conclusion, while Rron and Hermione fall in love gradually and there their love is based on friendship, Bella and Eedward fail in love because of physical attraktion.