

## FRQ Outline- AP EURO

1. Thesis: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State 3 major topic sentences that support your thesis:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

2. Provide 4 important pieces of factual information that supports each topic sentence.

- |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 1.a | 2.a | 3.a |
| b.  | b.  | b.  |
| c.  | c.  | c.  |
| d.  | d.  | d.  |

3. Create a clincher sentence that ties the paragraph together and links it to the thesis.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4. Concluding statement:

### Types of Thesis Statements

1. **X,Y,Z – Answers the question using 3 categories.**

**Ex.** The American colonists succeeded in The War for Independence because they fought on their own soil, used innovative fighting techniques, and had an emotional attachment to the cause.

(This thesis would be worth an extra point)

2. **Cause/Effect – States a cause and effect that together answers the question.**

**Ex.** Although controversial at the time, Russia's beard tax successfully encouraged the peasant class to embrace westernization and furthered Peter The Great's program to bring Russian society closer to that of Western Europe.

3. **“Although”**

**Ex. (above)**

## TIPS

**1) Analyze the question:** Make sure you are answering the question that was asked, not the question you wanted the test to ask! As you read the question, underline key terms and ideas that must be included. Familiarize yourself with the types of essay questions posed by the College Board. AP essays are not asking you to merely spout information, but to point out relationships between events, people, eras, and ideas.

**2) Plan your paragraphs:** This should not be something that takes a great deal of your time, but take 2-3 minutes to jot down key words, names, dates, or ideas. Use this as an outline. Since part of your grade depends upon your organization, this planning can be the key to a successful essay.

**3) Develop a thesis:** This should NOT simply reword the question. Rather, it should provide a specific answer to the question in the form of an argument. That is, the body of your essay has the sole task of proving your thesis statement. Therefore, your thesis needs to not only indicate the direction of your argument, but it should also indicate the major points, or divisions, you will address in the body. Remember, a good thesis should include a topic, direction, and at least three divisions.

**4) Write your introduction:** Your introduction should begin with a solid topic sentence indicating time and place. Gradually, the paragraph should grow more specific, leading to your specific thesis statement. Your thesis **MUST** appear in your introductory paragraph, but it should not be the first sentence.

**5) Write your body paragraphs:** In an AP-level essay, there should be **AT LEAST THREE** body paragraphs. Using the divisions in your thesis as a guide to organization, write your body paragraphs to support the argument you made in your thesis. You must use specific, factual information (names of people or places, important events, dates, etc.) to support any generalizations. Likewise, when using specific terminology, be sure to **DEFINE** the terms. While any specific information is better than none, you also want to try to include information that **NOT EVERYONE** knows (i.e. Ninja turtle artists vs. female artists of the Renaissance). This is more likely to impress your reader and lead to a higher score. Finally, make sure you are **ACCURATE**.

**6) Write your conclusion:** This last paragraph should give a brief summary of your entire argument. You should attempt to restate your thesis in a way that pulls its major threads together. You should not introduce any new information in your conclusion.

In addition to the steps above, you should also follow some general rules of good writing:

- 1) Always write in the third person.
- 2) Avoid pronouns or generalizations (“the people”). Specifics are always better.
- 3) Avoid metaphors, clichés, sarcasm, moralizing, or personal soapboxes.
- 4) Use appropriate transitions both between and within paragraphs.
- 5) Try to spell words correctly, especially if they appear in the question. If you are not sure of a spelling, choose one and stick with it throughout the entire essay.
- 6) Practice good grammar, including subject-verb agreement, punctuation, capitalization, and usage. However, avoid using short, choppy sentences.
- 7) **WRITE LEGIBLY!!**