**ORGANIZING YOUR AP HISTORY ESSAY**

This general format should work for both DBQs and LEQs.

**FIRST PARAGRAPH** *Introduction and Thesis*

1. Establish CONTEXT (Give the reader some useful background [2-3 sentences])
2. Clearly State Your Thesis (Make an argumentative statement supported by three main points [1-2 sentences])

**BODY PARAGRAPHS**

The thesis points should be defended in **three body paragraphs** that are set up in this format:

1. **TOPIC SENTENCE** - The reader should have a clear idea of what you will be arguing.
2. First Piece of Evidence
3. Analysis of Evidence -focus on the thinking skill
4. Second Piece of Evidence
5. Analysis of Evidence - focus on the thinking skill

*REPEAT THIS FORMAT FOR ALL THREE BODY PARAGRAPHS*

**CONCLUSION**

**Quickly re-state thesis.** If the thesis is clear in the first paragraph and you’ve thoroughly developed your argument in the body paragraphs, your reader has already basically finished scoring your essay by this time so don’t spend too much time here if that stuff has already been done. This is where the student can extend the argument beyond the immediate scope of the prompt and bring in something else that supports the development of a wider historical argument or theory by extending the argument to a similar situation from another place and/or time.