**How to Write a Mini Essay**

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It is very important you understand how to write a proper essay as you embark on your secondary journey.

**Introductory Paragraph**

* It is important to begin with a hook. This is something that will grab the reader’s attention.
  + This can be done with an interesting quote, a misconception about the country (or countries) or bringing up an interesting fact about them that is not well known.
* You should follow your hook with general information about Middle Ages Japan and Europe that will allow us to learn about who they are.
  + Some guiding questions:
    - Why are they important?
    - What did they accomplish?
    - How did they grow?
* Finally, you should end your introductory paragraph with your thesis.
  + It is highly recommended that this is where you introduce your ideas that your body paragraphs will discuss. You should aim to have two arguments here; similarities and differences.
    - You should aim for 2-3 similarities as well as 2-3 differences.
      * Thesis Example: Though Japanese and European feudalism have similar views on their military and ruling structure, they have two major differences on how they operate their government and women are viewed in society.
        + This demonstrates what your essay will discuss but does not give away the paper in its entirety.

**Body Paragraph**

* Depending how many examples you brought into your thesis, the number of paragraphs here can change. For this assignment you should have two body paragraphs (similarities + differences)
* Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence. The ideas should come in sequential order from your thesis.
  + Example: Europe did not view women as citizens, but in Feudal Japan they were given rights.
* From this you should use 2-3 examples to prove your viewpoint. This can be from analysis (that is backed by evidence) or quotations (see tips section).
* After this you are ready for your next paragraph (repeat the same steps above).

**Conclusion**

* Summarize the main points of your essay. It is recommended you summarize 1-2 points from each of your paragraphs or offer a general overview that still encompasses the same meaning.
* Your concluding sentence should end the entire essay on a strong note. Do NOT restate your thesis word for word. Rather, rephrase it to something similar.
  + Example: Although Japan and Europe had differences in how they viewed equality, their quest for the strongest military enabled Feudalism to live for hundreds of years.

**Tips!**

* Stay away from “too many quotes.” Try your best to rephrase them into your own words.
* Also avoid block and long quotes. Either break the quote down or keep it in the same sentence as your previous idea. Do not create a new paragraph for your one quote.
* Your papers can have some summary, but it should be filled with more analysis. We want to hear your perspective and you breaking down what everything meant.
* Always proofread your own work. We are human and can easily make mistakes. However, having too many can impede the flow of the assignment thus hurting it to a great extent.
* Keep your assignment organized. If you constantly change from one idea to the next, it can get confusing and once again disrupt the flow of the assignment.
* If you have the opportunity, ask your teacher for assistance regarding ideas.
* Try to follow the parameters the assignment outlines. Do your best not to exceed the maximum length and to be below the minimum length. It is unfortunate to lose marks for something that can be easily avoided.
* Cite properly! It is a shame to lose marks on a simple mistake.
* Many students make the mistake of using someone else’s idea and then citing it only in their citations section. You need to always rephrase those ideas.
  + A rephrase of ideas is NOT changing one or two words per sentence. It is changing the sentence entirely and maintaining the same meaning.