

US History 7
Thematic Essay
2007-2008

Note

The purpose of the Thematic Essay assignment is that you develop your own thoughts relative to the history we are studying. If I were to give you the answer to study and memorize in advance, I would defeat the purpose of the assignment. If you seek help on this assignment of the kind where someone tells you the answer to memorize and then just repeat on the essay, you are not doing the right thing. The topic is given in advance so that you, perhaps even with friends, develop possible responses and ways to present your ideas well in writing.

It is recommended that you use the graphic organizer below in preparing your essay. No notes or other aids are allowed to write the essay: it is expected you come to class actually knowing how you will respond. This is practice: as you grow older, teachers will not always give out essay topics in advance.

The Topic

Europeans set off across the sea to explore at the end of the 15th century. Why did they do this? What were some of the effects of this?

In a well-organized essay, explain any TWO reasons why Europeans set off exploring. Then, related any TWO effects of this exploration, including aspects of what is termed the “Columbian Exchange”. Pages 71 and 85 in your textbook may be particularly helpful.

Finally, conclude your essay by your own judgment of the coming of the European to the “New World”. That is, give reasons for your own opinion on this subject.

A graphic organizer is attached to help you prepare.

Causes of European Exploration:

1) _____

2) _____

Effects of European Exploration:

1) _____

2) _____

In my opinion, the coming of the Europeans to the Americas is

_____. *Reasons for my opinion are:*

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____
