

## Notes on essays

### General

- A. Essays must be written in paragraphs. The first line of each paragraph must be indented.
- B. Make sure that all sentences are complete. Complete sentences require a subject and a verb.

### Introduction

- C. Preview the structure of the essay in the introduction
- D. Your introduction must include a clear thesis that directly addresses the prompt.

### Body

- E. Body paragraphs must contain a clear topic sentence that lays out the argument to follow in the paragraph. The topic sentence should clearly indicate which time period it will discuss. The time periods each period were to discuss were clearly described on the outlined the exam itself.
- F. All claims made in the body paragraphs must be supported with appropriate evidence. (quotes and specific examples)
- G. Explain the context of the sources used and for the historical figures referenced (who are they, when did they write, why they are important, etc).
- H. Make sure that all examples are appropriate for the time period they describe. For example, Las Casas would only be relevant to paragraph 1, which discusses the colonial period. The crude reality video would only be appropriate in body part three, which is about the modern period.
- I. Make sure that all examples are explained in terms of your argument.
- J. Lead into quotes with transitional words.
- K. Make sure to cite the correct source for quotations.
- L. Paragraph 2 needs to have specific, not simply general examples drawn from lecture.
- M. Make sure that all of your claims are supported with specific examples.
- N. Use direct quotes (not simply paraphrases) from the sources to support your arguments. Make sure direct quotes are enclosed in quotation marks and cited.
- O. Make sure to use evidence appropriately. Quote sources accurately and make sure to explain how the quote relates to your argument.
- P. The Li Zixu document is not relevant to this essay, as it deals with China and the essay is about Latin America.
- Q. Explain your quotes by describing how they support your argument.
- R. Each body paragraph may have supporting quotes from Galeano, but must have evidence from the period in question as well. Only using quotes from Galeano is not sufficient.