

# Meridian Notes

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## **Thesis Prompt descriptions**

<http://teacherweb.com/CA/MontaVistaHighSchool/MargaretPlatt/KeyWritingPrompts.doc>

Add: To what extent – Two sides. One stronger. (Airplane wings)

## **Rubric criteria for the 8-9 essay:** (note how many times is the word “thesis” mentioned)

- Presents a clearly stated, well-developed **thesis** that addresses each aspect of the prompt
- Provides multiple, relevant, specific evidence with strong and relevant interpretive commentary that relates back to the **thesis**.
- Provides strong and compelling analysis of the question posed or the statement made in the prompt—this analysis contains conclusive breadth and sophisticated depth of information that links back to the **thesis**.
- Is well organized; the **thesis** is obvious; the supporting paragraphs contain logically organized information that link back continually to the **thesis**; the conclusion reinforces the **thesis** and synthesizes the supporting evidence.
- May contain minor errors that in no way detract from the soundness of the **thesis** and supporting evidence or the essay as a whole.

## **The Thesis**

- Thesis is found 7 times
- Every Point for an 8/9 point essay relates to the thesis.

The reader of your essay is human. They will get bored. They will get tired, reading 100s of essays each day.

- You have to grab their attention in the thesis
  - Same with SATs
- AP reader might not even read your entire analysis if the thesis is horrible.

## **Prompt**

- A. Thesis
- B. Analysis  
Body Para.
- C. Conclusion

The thesis is a preview, not an analysis.

- Do not add new analysis.
- Do not put in thesis what will not be in the analysis.

## **Conclusion**

- Review the thesis and core evidence.

## **Topic Sentence**

- Make it simple, unlike the thesis

## **Prompt Sample 1. (These prompts are actual FRQ samples from past recent AP exams)**

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For the period before 1750, analyze the ways in which Britain’s policy of salutary neglect influenced the development of American society as illustrated in the following.

- Legislative assemblies
- Commerce
- Religion

Legislative Assemblies (Political)	Commerce (Economic)	Religion (Social values)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democracy</li> <li>• Self-government</li> <li>• “Rights”</li> <li>• Blah</li> <li>• Blah</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-Reliance ← vague</li> <li>• Smuggling</li> <li>• Unrestricted trade</li> <li>• Bleh</li> <li>• Blah</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity of religion</li> <li>• Self trained clergy</li> <li>• Separation of church and state</li> <li>• Blah</li> </ul>

**Remember**

- 35 minutes per FRQ (2 frqs)
- 60 minutes for the DBQ
- 55 minutes for multiple choice
- That’s 2:10 minutes for 3 essays. They don’t time you, so you have to judge how much time you will spend.
- 3:05 for the whole test

Choose a couple pieces of evidence for each “aspect of the prompt”

- There will not be enough time for more.

A thesis may or may not have ONE sentence

- This prompt may have 1 or 2 sentences for each aspect.
- That’s up to SIX sentences!
- Preview the Thesis
  - Write what happened before the prompt
  - Do not just restate the thesis

Topic Sentence example: “Salutary neglect’s influence on American Society can be seen through Legislative Assemblies.

- This may just be a restate of the prompt

**BUT IN**

Prompt 3.

Analyze the reasons for the emergence of the Populist movement in the late nineteenth century.

You have to make your own reasons this time.

Economic Woes

Money problems → desire for inflation

Tariffs

Overproduction

Problems with government

Trusts → corruption

No voice in government

Have at most 3 body paragraphs