

9th Grade World History Bal

Africa Essay Assignment

Background

At the beginning of our Africa unit, we spent some time looking at the various ways that European historians have stereotyped and distorted African history. Throughout our unit, from the early East African kingdoms to the rise of the empires of the West African savanna, we have seen many examples that disprove the statements made by these historians. Your job is to write an essay that illustrates these examples, and proves those historians wrong.

Question

How has our study of Africa disproven the stereotypes that European historians have long held about African history?

Assignment:

Answer the above question in a five paragraph essay that meets the following requirements:

- 2-3 typed pages
- Double-spaced
- 12pt, Times New Roman font
- 1-inch margins
- Proper heading (name, teacher's name, class + block, date)

Criteria for Success

A successful essay is one that:

- Has an introduction that “sets the stage” for the question and includes a clear thesis statement;
- Has a thesis statement that is strong, **specific** (what’s the stereotype?) and **supported** (what’s your evidence?);
- Provides historical evidence to support the argument;
- Has body paragraphs beginning with clear topic sentences introducing the main idea of the paragraph;
- Has body paragraphs that end with strong concluding sentences that tie the evidence back to your thesis;
- Provides at least one quotation from either the DBQ packet “Africa Before European Arrival” or the Swahili city-states reading.

Timeline

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Wed., 1/21: | Introduce assignment, brainstorm answers |
| Fri., 1/23: | Detailed outline (including thesis statement) due at the start of class |
| Mon/Tues,
1/26 or 1/27: | First draft due at the start of class |
| Thurs., 1/29: | Final draft due at the start of class |

Africa Essay: Brainstorm Chart

Stereotypes about African History:	Examples that prove them wrong:

Thesis Statement Guide

The first step to writing an excellent history paper is to have a strong, clear thesis statement. A good thesis statement does two things:

- A. It is a clear answer to the essay question (claim)
- B. It establishes the categories you will use to support your answer (reason)

This breaks down to look like this:

CLAIM because **REASON**
(what you think is true) (provide the WHY and/or HOW here)

**Because is boring! Here are some “because”
equivalents:**

- on account of
- as a result of
- due to
- by reason of
- owing to
- as a consequence of
- thanks to

Note: This is a basic template for writing a thesis. As you become more comfortable writing thesis statements you are encouraged to vary your language and be creative!

Your THESIS STATEMENT should be the LAST SENTENCE of your FIRST (OR INTRODUCTORY) PARAGRAPH.

1. Look at column 1 from your brainstorm. What stereotype(s) will you address in your paper? Your **claim** will be that this stereotype is incorrect. Write this claim below:

2. Look at column 2 from your brainstorm. What examples will you use to disprove the stereotype(s)? These will be your **reasons**. Write them in bullet points below.

3. Write a rough draft of your thesis combining what you wrote in 1 & 2.

Name _____

World History

Block ____

Due Date _____

Title:

I. Introduction

A. Opening Sentence (what is the topic, get your reader's attentions)

B. Background Information (relevant information that "sets the stage," briefly introduce the topics you will use to defend your thesis)

1.

2.

3.

B. Transition to Thesis (one sentence)

C. Thesis Statement

II. Body Paragraph #1

A. Topic Sentence

B. Evidence

1.

2.

3.

C. Connection to Thesis (Concluding Sentence)

III. Body Paragraph #2

A. Topic Sentence:

B. Evidence:

1.

2.

3.

C. Connection to Thesis (Concluding Sentence):

IV. Body Paragraph #3

A. Topic Sentence:

B. Evidence

1.

2.

3.

C. Connection to Thesis (Concluding Sentence)

V. Conclusion (1 paragraph):

A. Summary of the Main Arguments

1.

2.

3.

B. Restatement of Thesis (without repeating it word for word)

C. Extend the Argument (what is the historical significance, why is it relevant?)

WRITING AND FORMATTING CHECKLIST

YOUR INTRODUCTION NEEDS...

- background information
- to introduce the question
- a thesis statement that answers the question, makes an argument, and contains your three main points

EACH BODY PARAGRAPH NEEDS...

- a topic sentence
- lots of detail to support your argument
- a concluding sentence

YOUR CONCLUSION NEEDS...

- to restate your thesis
- to review your main points
- a “so what”- why is your paper worth reading? why is this topic important?

FORMATTING CHECKLIST

- Times New Roman font (size 12)
- one inch margins
- double-spaced
- proper heading (in upper right: Name, Teacher’s Name, Class + Block, Date)
- must be 2-3 pages long

THINGS TO AVOID:

- × plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without citing them)
- × slang and informal language
- × “I” or the first person

MAKE SURE YOU...

- proofread your essay several times before handing it in
- include lots of details
- write in the past tense

Please use this checklist to make sure your essay contains all of the requirements, and staple this page to the back of your final draft