

Review the notes below/Review the steps in breaking down a prompt and planning a complete and effective introduction!

Then, on a separate sheet of paper, plan for and write a *Complete Thesis/Introductory Paragraph* for the second prompt. Your planning (“Visible Thinking”) should precede your introductory paragraph, and it should NOT mirror your peers... do this on your own!

1. Analyze the reasons for, and results of, U.S. diplomatic, economic, and military initiatives overseas from 1945 through 1980.

- a. What is the skill being tested? CAUSATION – both causes (reasons) and effects (results)... remember your Long Essay prompts will test one of the BIG FOUR skills: Causation, Comparison, Change and Continuity over Time, or Periodization!**

NOTES: With causation... you are doing MORE than just explaining causes and effects! You are evaluating them! Give them value! Which cause was more significant? Which effect was least significant? Or, which effect was more short term vs long term?

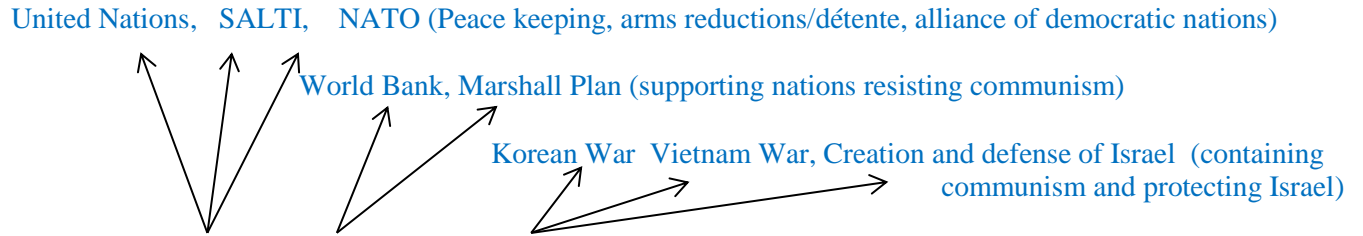
- b. What is the theme of the question? (or themes) This prompt focuses on America in the World (foreign policy). *In your synthesis (conclusion) you can compare to a different era(preferred) or compare to a different theme such as Migration, Geography/Environment, Politics and Power, Identity, Economy, or Society/Culture.***
- c. What are the parameters? 1945 – end of WWII through 1980 – election of Ronald Reagan – This is the Cold War Era, although the era doesn’t end until 1989 with the fall of the Berlin Wall in Berlin, Germany and/or 1991 with the breakup of the Soviet Union. Use this for your local context. For a long essay it can be one sentence. For DBQ it must be several sentences. Avoid generalities! Use evidence!**

Ineffective Example: From 1945 to 1980 the United States had many diplomatic, economic, and military initiatives.

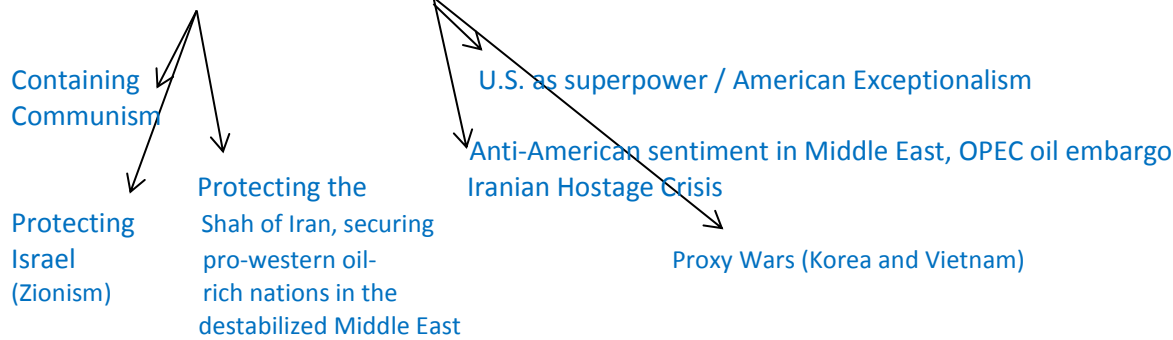
Effective Example: From 1945 when the Cold War began through the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980, America’s role in the world changed as many initiatives were carried out in the name of containing communism, such as the Berlin Airlift in which President Truman prevented the Soviet Union from taking over West Berlin.

- d. Does the prompt give you organizational categories? Yes: diplomatic, economic, and military initiatives overseas Use these as your ABC! And, remember your A will also be your X! Although you can use other categories as long as you address all of these initiatives (causes and effects with examples) in your essay.**
- e. ATFQ! Make sure you address the full prompt! Have you read it not once, not twice, but thrice? “Reasons” = notice it is plural! You need to identify a minimum of TWO causes! Why did these initiatives happen? What were the goals? “Results” = again... plural! Identify at least TWO results! How did these initiatives impact the country? (think thematically or specifically)**

f. Brainstorm & Plan! You need specific evidence not just generalizations! Remember to include evidence that spans the parameters!



Analyze the reasons for, and results of, U.S. diplomatic, economic, and military initiatives overseas from 1945 through 1980.



g. Write your thesis! Use your formula! Have it memorized and use it when you plan your essay!

Ineffective example: There were many reasons for diplomatic, economic, and military initiatives overseas from 1945, and these initiatives had many results. Although some may say that supporting Israel was the main reason for the effects, containing communism was the main reason for them.

Notes: Do not simply restate prompt. Do not refer to some mysterious “some.” Your intro must have both complexity and evidence.

Effective example: From 1945 when the Cold War began through the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980, America’s role in the world changed as many initiatives were carried out in the name of containing communism, such as the Berlin Airlift in which President Truman prevented the Soviet Union from taking over West Berlin. Containing communism and protecting the nation of Israel were two main causes for the diplomatic, economic, and military initiatives of this era. Although these initiatives did result in the promotion of American Exceptionalism as the U.S. supported democratic and capitalist systems worldwide through things like the NATO alliance, the most significant results of these policies were long term conflict from Middle Eastern countries and costly proxy wars which deflated Americans’ view that the U.S. was an invincible superpower.

Notes: The thesis evaluates by denoting most significant effects, both reasons (plural causes) and results (plural effects) are included. Context is accurate. Although it appears this thesis is setting up the ABC by the effects (which is perfectly fine), the essay could also be organized with the categories provided in the prompt. Remember to back up your X with evidence.

Your turn... Address the following prompt by following all the steps (planning) as well as writing a complete introductory paragraph. You should be able to do this planning and have your introduction written in less than 10 minutes!

Prompt: Explain how political and cultural debates affected American values, politics, and society during the 1960s.