

**FIRST TIME FREE-RESPONSE ESSAY (FRQ) ASSIGNMENT
AP UNITED STATES HISTORY
INSTRUCTIONS AND GRADING RUBRIC**

Instructions:

For this assignment, you will respond to an AP essay question on a separate sheet of paper (as if it was conducted in class). **Do not type this assignment.**

The normal procedure for “free response essay questions” includes:

- 5 minute reading period
- 30 minute writing period (suggested)
- Usually 5-6 substantial paragraphs (including an introduction with a clear thesis)
- Usually 3-4 handwritten pages (larger spacing in AP exam booklet, similar to wide ruled paper)

For this assignment, you may choose to spend more time as it is your first experience writing an essay of this kind. **However, do not spend more than forty-five minutes writing.** The way to avoid writing for more than this is to effectively plan your essay.

Follow the rubric instructions carefully (attached). The official AP rubric, which is the format that will be used for all future essays of this kind, is attached.

The “FRQ”:

Compare the ways in which TWO of the following reflected tensions in colonial society:

Bacon’s Rebellion (1676)

Pueblo Revolt (1680)

Salem witchcraft trials (1692)

Stono Rebellion (1739)

**SAVE THIS PACKET! YOU WILL STAPLE IT
TO THE BACK OF YOUR HANDWRITTEN
ESSAY.**

Rubric/Steps to Success: *This detailed rubric is designed to help you write an effective essay now, and effective essays later!*

Essay Outline
Satisfactory?

Unsatisfactory?
-1 to -4 of
Percentage
score

- Step 1. Read the question carefully and choose which two events you wish to analyze.
- Step 2. Reflect on the question and the two events. Make a list of what you know of these events, especially how they relate to growing “tensions in colonial society”
- Step 3. Write an outline for your essay, using the following example (your outline will be checked this time only):
- Introduction and a clear thesis (see description below)
 - Supporting paragraphs with evidence and analysis
 - Evidence: events, facts, etc. to support main argument (your thesis)
 - Analysis: how the evidence above relates to the thesis or main idea – cause/effect, significance, etc.
 - Conclusion to argument (and is not simply repetitive)
- EXAMPLE:** Note: this is only one example, not the one you have to use
- Paragraph 1 – Introduction & Thesis
 - Paragraph 2 – Event 1 evidence: how developed, what occurred, why important (analysis-tie to thesis)
 - Paragraph 3 – Event 1 significance/lasting effects (evidence and analysis)
 - Paragraph 4 – same as Paragraph 2 (for Event 2)
 - Paragraph 5 – same as Paragraph 3 (for Event 2)
 - Paragraph 6 – Conclusion of argument

*****Now you are ready to begin your essay*****
The rest of the rubric and instructions are contained on the next page.

Thesis/Intro statement assessed by AP rubric

Step 4. Write an introductory paragraph that contains a clear thesis. This thesis should be well-developed and should discuss the two events “in a manner that indicates a good understanding of each event **and** how it reflected colonial tensions.” **Hit me over the head with a good thesis** - I’ll tell you why 😊

An effective thesis statement must make a clear **argument** (your point of view). This means that you must decide how the two events you chose reflected social tensions (and what those tensions were). An introduction and thesis can also demonstrate “change over time.” **We will discuss examples in class!**

Effective essay paragraphs must contain:

Substantial and specific historical evidence

Effective analysis

Balance

(assessed by AP rubric)

Step 5. Write supporting paragraphs that include:

- Topic sentences that support your main thesis. A topic sentence serves as a “mini-thesis” that is connected to the main idea. It contains a decisive argument that blends evidence and analysis.
- Substantial relevant, but specific information (**evidence**) that supports the thesis.
- Effective **analysis** of the connection between the events and social tensions (i.e. cause/effect, significance, groups involved in conflict or type of conflict: religions, cultural, racial, political, etc.). Effective analysis is extremely important. **Anyone can make a sixth-grade level “report” on Bacon’s Rebellion, but an advanced thinker (like yourself) should be able to describe how/why Bacon’s Rebellion is critically important to understanding the developing tensions in the Virginia colony and tensions in all British North American colonies – and, of course, the significance of those tensions.**
- Good **balance** of the two events
- Good writing (only well-written essays are considered for good scores)

Step 6. Proofread your essay. Make corrections as necessary. On the AP exam, you may cross out wording and replace with other prose. However, you want to avoid looking disorganized. **Write neatly!!!**

The actual AP scoring rubric is attached. As this is your first FRQ essay assignment, a modified scoring translation will be used, as follows:

9 or 8 = 100 7 = 95 6 = 90 5 = 85 4 = 82 3 = 80 2 = 75 1 = 68 0 = 62

The normal translation for all future essays is:

9 = 100; 8 = 94; 7 = 88; 6 = 82; 5 = 76; 4 = 70; 3 = 64; 2 = 58; 1 = 52; 0 = 0

AP® UNITED STATES HISTORY 2003 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

Question 2

Compare the ways in which TWO of the following reflected tensions in colonial society: Bacon's Rebellion (1676), Pueblo Revolt (1680), Salem Witchcraft trials (1692), Stono Rebellion (1739).

The 8-9 Essay

- Has a well-developed thesis that discusses two of the events in a manner that indicates a good understanding of each event and how it reflected colonial tensions.
- Supports the thesis with substantial relevant information.
- Has effective analysis of the connection between the events and social tensions
- Shows good balance in treatment of the two events
- Supports thesis with substantial and relevant outside information
- May contain minor errors.
- Well-organized and well written

The 5-7 Essay

- Discusses two of the events in a manner that indicates an understanding of the event and how it reflected colonial tensions
- Supports thesis with some relevant information
- May have limited analysis of the connection between the events and social tensions
- May have some imbalance in the treatment of the two events
- Has acceptable organization and writing
- May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.

The 2-4 Essay

- Has a limited or unfocused thesis that presents a superficial discussion of the events with little understanding of the underlying tensions
- Supports the thesis with few relevant facts
- Contains little or no analysis
- Shows significant imbalance in the treatment of the two events
- May contain major errors
- May be poorly organized and/or written

The 0-1 Essay

- Lacks a thesis or simply restates the question.
- Demonstrates an incompetent or inappropriate response.
- Contains substantial factual errors.
- Is poorly organized and/or written.

The --- Essay

- Is completely off-topic or blank