

## Section Outlines

### Argumentation/Claim Making

**Skill:** Creating a historical argument includes defining and framing a question about the past and then formulating a claim or argument about that question, often in the form of a thesis. A persuasive historical argument requires a precise and defensible thesis or claim, supported by rigorous analysis of relevant and diverse historical evidence. The argument and evidence used should be framed around the application of a specific historical thinking skill: (comparison, causation, continuity and change over time, and/or periodization)

**Application:** After you read each section of the text you will use what you read to create a meaningful claim/argument about what you just read using any of the above mentioned and below outlined skills.

### Evidence

**Skill:** Content thinking involves the ability to describe, select, and evaluate relevant evidence about the past from diverse sources and draw conclusions about their relevance to different historical issues.

**Application:** After you have formed each claim, support it with evidence from the given section (do not directly quote anything; simply paraphrase in your own words) You then need to explain how it supports your claim.

## How to Form Your Claim

### Comparison

**Skill:** Historical thinking involves the ability to identify, compare, and evaluate multiple perspectives on a given historical event in order to draw conclusions about that event. It also involves the ability to describe, compare, and evaluate multiple historical developments within one society, one or more developments across or between different societies, and in various chronological and geographical contexts.

**Application:** The main goal of this type of claim is to draw specific similarities and/or differences between two related concepts, topics, events and/or entities. Your claim should clearly state the relationship between the two and should then be supported with specific examples that outline this relationship.

### Causation

**Skill:** Historical thinking involves the ability to identify, analyze, and evaluate the relationships among historical causes and effects, distinguishing between those that are long term and proximate. Historical thinking also involves the ability to distinguish between causation and correlation, and an awareness of contingency, the way that historical events result from a complex variety of factors that come together in unpredictable ways and often have unanticipated consequences.

**Application:** The main goal this type of claim is to draw a specific cause and/or effect relationship between two related concepts, topics, events and/or entities. Your claim should clearly state the relationship between the two and should then be supported with specific examples that outline this relationship.

## **Continuity & Change Over Time**

**Skill:** Historical thinking involves the ability to recognize, analyze, and evaluate the dynamics of historical continuity and change over periods of time of varying length, as well as the ability to relate these patterns to larger historical processes or themes.

**Application:** The main goal this type of claim is to show how a general region has shown a specific change and/or continuity over a given spectrum of time. Your claim should clearly state the nature of the change/continuity and should then be supported with specific examples that outline this process. (Think of your life from birth till now and ask yourself what has CHANGED over that time and what has COUNTIUNED—meaning what has remained the same.)

## **Periodization**

Historical thinking involves the ability to describe, analyze, and evaluate different ways that historians divide history into discrete and definable periods. Historians construct and debate different, sometimes competing models of periodization; the choice of specific turning points or starting and ending dates might accord a higher value to one narrative, region, or group than to another.

**Application:** The main goal this type of claim is to show how a general region has specific events, concepts and developments create in history a meaningful turning point in which there is a clear difference between the time before that point and the time after it. Your claim should clearly state the nature of that turning point and should then be supported with specific examples of what life was like both before and after it.