**Writing tips for World History**

* Circle and define all the parts/terms of the question so that you are SURE that you understand WHAT IS BEING ASKED.
* A THESIS is a one-sentence answer to the question. It is specific; it contains details.
* Make sure you have paragraphs – don’t write a one-paragraph essay!

**COMPARE/CONTRAST ESSAY**

1. Do not ever write “They were similar yet different” as a thesis statement. Or “they were different, yet similar.” Or “They had many similarities and some differences.” The blanket response to that is “DUH”. If you have to write it, go ahead, and then cross it out.
2. If you must, qualify similarities and differences; e.g. “They were similar politically, but differed dramatically in their economic and social causes.” This would squeak by as the barest minimum of an acceptable thesis.
3. You must have similarities and differences in the essay.
4. Organize the comparison essay by theme or topic and not by country. For example, if you are to compare the political, economic and social causes of the French and Haitian revolutions, you should have a paragraph on political causes, one on economic causes, and the third on social causes 🡪 the reason for this is that if you were to organize by country, chances are HUGE that you will forget to make a DIRECT comparison, and instead write 2 separate “snapshots”. You won’t get credit for making a DIRECT comparison. Parallel structure is not the same as a DIRECT comparison.
5. Past tense verbs – Martin Luther initiat**ed** the Protestant Reformation. 🡪 IT’S HISTORY!
6. Unnecessary words – don’t use fifteen words when three will do

Example: This happened during the Medieval Era where the first university was born; this university’s strength was to gather scientists in this school, and when this happened it started a trade where people shared ideas or passed on ideas to others and they improved on it. >>>>>> During the Middle Ages, scientists gathered in universities where they shared ideas.

1. Run-on sentences – don’t just list facts and think that the reader will figure out what you mean 🡪 AKA “Information Dump”

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| Phrases that Show Comparison | Phrases that Show Contrast | Phrases that Show Causation |
| Similar to…,Both…,Like…,Compared to…,In the same way…,Analogous to…,One connection between…, | One difference between…Unlike…where…,In contrast to…,Whereas…,Though…, | One reason that explains why…was…One cause of…was…One effect of…Because of…Consequently…As a result… |