

## Spring Research Paper Prompt and Thesis Development Template

### PROMPT

Write a 3-5 page research paper using a historiography concept to analyze an event, policy or phenomenon from the last three decades of the twentieth century. Include the following:

1. Identify and briefly describe the event, policy or phenomenon (your topic).
2. Identify and briefly describe the historiography concept that you are using to analyze your topic.
3. Use the concept to focus your analysis of the topic and to determine its historical significance.

[**Example:** For a topic like the Voting Rights Act of 1965, you could write about the factors that led Congress to pass it (Causation), the immediate & long term effects of the Act (impact) or how the Act helped America realize a neglected part of the Declaration of Independence (Reflection of Values). It is also possible for an essay to combine ideas from different concepts to form a thesis.]

### THESIS DEVELOPMENT TEMPLATE

Using the following sentence stem, fill in the parts:

In looking at (x) \_\_\_\_\_ we will examine (y) \_\_\_\_\_, to find (z) \_\_\_\_\_.

(X) is your topic.

(Y) are the ideas based on your chosen historiography concept. (This will form the parts/divisions of the essay.)

(Z) is the core of your thesis. (In determining (z), think about the implications, consequences, significance of the topic.)

The template functions as a planning tool. **Do not use the template sentence as is in your essay.** Rather incorporate the ideas from the template in your introduction. Consider ending the introductory paragraph with the ideas from (z), which is your thesis.

**Thesis Assignment:** Using information from the template, type out a thesis statement that contains a topic, point of view and significance.

### Thesis Rubric

20 – 18 Points	The thesis contains a unique focus, point of view and a consequence and is grammatically sound.
17 – 16 Points	The thesis contains a focus, point of view and a consequence, but the focus is too broad or unoriginal, or is grammatically awkward.
15 – 14 Points	The thesis is missing a focus, point of view, or consequence, and may be grammatically awkward.
13 – 12 Points	The thesis is missing at least two of the required components (focus, point of view, and consequence) and/or the thesis contains major syntax errors, which affect its clarity.
11 & Below	The thesis does not contain the components of the thesis or is unclear.