

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

**Theme:** Individuals, Groups, Institutions — Writing and Reform

Throughout United States history, individuals have used writing as a way to focus attention on issues facing the American people. To resolve the issues raised in these writings, actions have been taken by the government, groups, or individuals.

**Task:**

Select two pieces of writing that have focused attention on issues facing American society and for each:

- Describe the historical circumstances surrounding the issue addressed by the author
- Discuss an action taken by the government or a group or an individual in response to the issue raised by the author

Using Common Sense by Thomas Paine (1776)

**Guidelines:**

In your essay, be sure to

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

In developing your answer, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) describe means "to illustrate something in words or tell about it"
- (b) discuss means "to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail"

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# Common Sense by Thomas Paine (1776)

Historical Circumstances  
(at least two)  
What led to the topic?  
- Common Sense -

Topic:

Evidence: (pgs 8+9) \* Background of  
what came before Common Sense 1776

Analysis:

Action Taken in Response  
to issue raised by author

Topic:

Evidence: (pgs. 9, 10, 12) \* what came after  
Common Sense in 1776

Analysis:

TEA Writing Strategy: COMMON SENSE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

TEA METHOD - SEVEN sentences (minimum) for each body paragraph addressing the essay task (Thematic or DBQ)

- ✓ **Topic** = Topic sentence for your paragraph. Use the task (bullet point) to help formulate this sentence (1-2 sentences).
- ✓ **Evidence** = "Relevant facts, examples and details" supporting your topic; your knowledge of history **plus** document info if DBQ (AT LEAST 5 sentences)
- ✓ **Analysis** = Explanation of how the evidence proves the answer to the task (1-3 sentences at end of paragraph)

Directions: Write two paragraphs addressing the task below using the TEA METHOD.

Topic: *Common Sense* (Thomas Paine, 1776)

**TASK:**

- Describe the historical circumstances surrounding the issue addressed by the author
- Discuss an action taken by the government or a group or an individual in response to the issue raised by the author

Example:

- ✓ **Topic:** Topic sentence(s) for your paragraph. Use the task (bullet point) to formulate this sentence. This should be 1-2 sentences.

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- ✓ **Evidence:** "Relevant facts, examples and details" used in the task to describe the topic. This should be at least 5 sentences.

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✓ **Analysis:** Explanation of how the evidence proves the answer to the task. This should be 1-3 sentences at the end of the paragraph connecting your ideas.

Then, write the second paragraph (task 2) in the space below. USE THE TEA METHOD as described above.