

Social Studies Writing Elements

Thesis

- summarized in one sentence
- answers the question/problem
- takes a clear stance

Roadmap

- supports and clarifies the thesis
- prepares reader for upcoming information
- identifies points that will be used to defend thesis

*Topic Sentence

- supports the thesis & roadmap
- is general and not specific
- introduces topic of the paragraph in the first sentence

*Statement

- sets up the example
- gives background information or definitions to support the example
- clarifies the topic sentence

*Example

- specific
- based on fact (usually requires a citation)
- helps support the thesis & topic sentence

*These elements can appear multiple times throughout the body of your writing..

*Tie-Back

- explains how the example relates to the thesis
- usually more than one sentence
- provides author's analysis of the example & its relation to the thesis

Introduction Paragraph

- starts with a hook, ends with a thesis/roadmap
- provides background information (who/what/where/when)
- starts vague and ends specific

Conclusion Paragraph

- restates thesis/roadmap in the first sentence
- minimum 3-5 sentence summation of the evidence
- provides no new information