**Essay Checklist- FRQ  
Before you even begin……**

1.ANALYZE THE QUESTION.

A. WHAT IS THIS QUESTION ASKING YOU TO DO?

B. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT ALL THE TERMS IN THE QUESTION MEAN?

C. WHAT TIME PERIOD SHOULD YOUR ANSWER FOCUS ON?

2. RECALL INFORMATION YOU HAVE LEARNED.

A. BRAINSTORM THE INFORMATION THAT MAY BE RELEVANT TO THE QUESTION.

3. OUTLINE YOUR INFORMATION.

A. PLACE INFORMATION IN A LOGICAL ORDER.

B. ARRANGE CHRONOLOGICALLY OR THEMATICALLY.

C. SET UP YOUR PARAGRAPHS

4. DRAFT YOUR THESIS. (THIS IS THE BACKBONE TO YOUR ESSAY!!) Refer back to it throughout essay!

A. PRIORITIZE INFORMATION.

B. KEEP TRACK OF CAUSE AND EFFECT.

C. DETERMINE RELEVANCE

5. WRITE YOUR ESSAY- REMEMBER THE QUESTION WILL DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF PARAGRAPHS. DON'T TRY TO MAKE HISTORICAL ESSAYS ONE SIZE FITS ALL.

\_\_\_\_**Introductory Paragraph- BAAQ +Date**

\_\_\_\_Background information (this is your intro…. Include a DATE)

\_\_\_\_Thesis

An effective thesis will have all these components-

* Fully addresses the question (prompt) asked
* Takes a position with regard to the question asked
* Provides organizational categories that will be used in the essay

\_\_\_\_Blueprint (this is the organizational categories for your essay to follow)

\_\_\_\_**Body Paragraphs (# will vary based on the prompt)**

\_\_\_\_Topic sentence

\_\_\_\_Specific support/ evidence (show the cause/effect and REALLY Analyze!

\_\_\_\_Concluding sentence with transition into next paragraph

\_\_\_\_**Conclusion**

\_\_\_\_Reworded thesis- Show how you proved your stance/prompt

\_\_\_\_Clincher (so what)

Characteristics of an 8/9

-Has a clear, well-developed, sophisticated thesis

-Is well organized

\*Information is discussed in logical order

\*Each paragraph has a topic sentence and Argument is easy to follow

-Completely and fully addresses ALL the terms of the question

-Supports the thesis with SPECIFIC EVIDENCE

-Demonstrates insightful and critical analysis- more than just a regurgitation of someone else’s ideas.