

APUSH / KEY TO WRITING A THESIS STATEMENT

Almost all APUSH long essay or DBQ statements, no matter how complicated they may initially appear, can almost always be reduced to a single question. Your first step, after you have taken the time to quickly write down all the outside information you remember that concerns the topic presented, is to turn the assignment into a specific question.

For example, the 2016 DBQ asked the students to “**Explain** the causes of the rise of a woman’s rights movement in the period 1940-1975.” This can easily be turned into a question that starts “**Why** did the woman’s rights movement...”

The 2016 Essay questions asked the students to “**Evaluate** the extent...”. This can easily be turned into a question that starts **Did** the

The answer to the question will become the thesis statement for your essay or DBQ.

A good APUS opening paragraph thesis statement will usually express one main idea, provide an answer upon which people may disagree, and include your position.

SOME IMPORTANT THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND FOR YOUR THESIS:

1. Remember that your thesis needs to show your conclusions about a subject.
2. The AP Readers need to be able to see that your essay has one main point.
3. Your thesis statement should indicate exactly what your essay is about, and help keep you on track.