

## Enduring Issues Essay Prompt

### **PART 3—EXTENDED ESSAY**

An enduring issue is an issue that exists across time. It is one that many societies have attempted to address with varying degrees of success.

#### **In your essay**

- Identify and define an enduring issue raised by this set of documents.
- Using your knowledge of Social Studies and evidence from the documents, argue why the issue you selected is significant and how it has endured across time.

#### **Be sure to**

- Identify the issue based on a historically accurate interpretation of three documents.
- Define the issue using evidence from at least three documents
- Argue that this is a significant issue that has endured by showing:
  - How the issue has affected people or been affected by people
  - How the issue has continued to be an issue or changed over time
- Include outside information from your knowledge of social studies and evidence from the documents.

## Enduring Issues Essay Outline

This outline identifies the components of introduction, body, and conclusion paragraphs.

### **I. Introduction Paragraph**

#### **A. DEFINE** and briefly **DISCUSS** the Enduring Issue

*Describing what the enduring issue is and explain how it relates to American History.*

#### **B. THESIS: ESTABLISH A CLAIM** that **IDENTIFIES** the Enduring Issue and **STATES** why it is significant

*An issue might be significant because it has affected a lot of people, its effects are long-lasting, and/or it impacts the world today.*

#### **C. THESIS: IDENTIFY** topics to be discussed in the essay that show it has endured across time.

Here is an example of a paragraph --- this will not work for all essays and it would need to be modified based on the claim that is being taken (has it improved? Has it changed? Has it continued? Has it gotten worse?)

An enduring issue in American history is \_\_\_\_\_ (what it is), (define it) \_\_\_\_\_. It first appears to impact U.S. society in \_\_\_\_\_ (time period) and continues to have a \_\_\_\_\_ (positive/negative/small/large, etc.) impact of the U.S. today. \_\_\_\_\_ (enduring issue) has endured as seen through \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and although it has improved it still \_\_\_\_\_ (a problem, not solved, impacting U.S. history, impacting people, etc.).

## II. Body Paragraph: First Topic (A-D make up the whole paragraph)

### A. TOPIC SENTENCE

*Identify the main idea of your body paragraph and connect it to the claim in your thesis.  
Transition from the introduction (later paragraph will transition from the previous topic).*

### B. DESCRIBE EVIDENCE - DETAIL / Facts needed (What?)

*Describe evidence of an event, person, source, etc.*

*who was involved    where it happened    when it happened    what happened    how it happened*

*Use evidence from documents and outside information explain the SIGNIFICANCE of the event.  
Introduce evidence from documents using source information and cite the document parenthetically (doc 4)*

### C. ANALYSIS EVIDENCE: EXPLAIN the EFFECTS of the event (Why and How?)

**A good word to use is "because", also in your writing keep answering the question so what? These are some questions to answer in your writing that will help you with analysis.**

1. **Explain why** it was/is important
2. **Explain how** and **why** people were impacted by it with specific historical proof (NO OPINIONS!)
3. **How** did this event / example change history? (turning point)
4. **Explain how and why** the effects were long lasting.

### D. CONCLUDING SENTENCE of the paragraph

*A sentence that summarizes and transitions to the next paragraph*

**Here is an example tied to inequality in the U.S.**

**A.** Inequality has been present throughout all of U.S. history and one area it has been evident in would be race relations in the U.S. African Americans have suffered inequality which started with the history of slavery. People have fought against inequality by trying to gain freedom. This included those who risked their lives on the Underground Railroad.

**B.**--Your next sentences --- give facts, details, people etc. --- what was slavery, why did it show inequality, what did people do to try to escape slavery, what was the response to that? More sentences with facts / details/ and evidence using a document / documents that are cited parenthetically. Explain why this show inequality and the issue around why that is bad.

**C.**--ANSWER THE QUESTION how it has changed or stayed the same over time ANALYSIS -- what was the impact? Why was this wrong? How did this impact people specifically and the U.S. as a whole? What ended slavery? Did this end inequality?

*D. The worst example of inequality in U.S. history is slavery with its harsh treatment, punishment, and lack of freedom for those who suffered its worst effects. Many individuals tried to break away from slavery by using the Underground Railroad but slave owners were not willing to end the system. It would take the Civil War to end slavery but inequality continued to be an issue in American History.*

**III. Body Paragraph: Second Topic - follow the format above -- Transition to second topic**

**IV. Body Paragraph: Third Topic – follow the format above – Transition to third topic and this is the best paragraph to evaluate the topic in modern times – is it the same or different with specific examples and evidence**

**V. Conclusion**

**A. RESTATE** the stance/claim

**B. DESCRIBE** how the issue has continued to be an issue and changed over time

**C. EXPLAIN** why the issue is ENDURING and SIGNIFICANT

\_\_\_\_\_ is a significant enduring issue in America  
because \_\_\_\_\_ it has led to  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The struggle to solve  
this issue has been \_\_\_\_\_ as shown through  
\_\_\_\_\_ but this will continue to have an  
impact on American in a \_\_\_\_\_ way because  
\_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_

*This concluding paragraph outline may or may not work based on what you have written but it gives you an idea how to set up a conclusion with evidence that is strong.*

## Steps for Constructing an Enduring Issues Essay:

1. Read each document, **annotate** it, and identify the **main idea** and **possible enduring issues** for each document.
2. **Compare** each document and the ideas in them to **identify similarities and differences**.
3. **Identify possible enduring issues** that are present in more than one document.
4. **Sort documents into categories** based on possible enduring issues.
5. **Choose an enduring issue** that relates to at least three documents and that you can show has endured over time.
6. **Reread documents** related to the enduring issue.
7. **Refine the enduring issue** and **define it** by
  - describing what it is,
  - clarifying what the words in the enduring issue and the description mean,
  - by providing at least three examples from history or modern day that demonstrate it is an enduring issue.
8. **Explain why** the enduring issue is **significant** by describing
  - How people were and/or have been affected by it.
  - How many people's lives were and/or have been affected by it.
  - How long lasting the changes were and/or have been.
9. Include **outside** information

## Enduring Issues Essay Prompt:

The prompt will be the same every time.

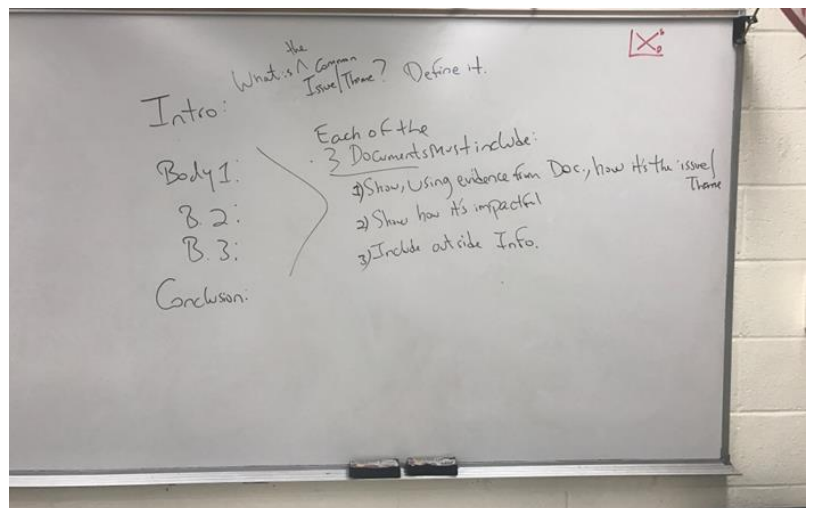
An enduring issue is an issue that exists across time. It is one that many societies have attempted to address with varying degrees of success.

### In your essay

- Identify and define an enduring issue raised by this set of documents.
- Using your knowledge of Social Studies and evidence from the documents, argue why the issue you selected is significant and how it has endured across time.

### Be Sure to

- Identify the issue based on a historically accurate interpretation of three documents.
- Define the issue using evidence from at least three documents
- Argue that this is a significant issue that has endured by showing:
  - How the issue has affected people or been affected by people
  - How the issue has continued to be an issue or changed over time
- Include outside information from your knowledge of social studies and evidence from the documents.



# Enduring Issue Check-In Document-Based Activity

➔ Directions: Follow the steps below to examine the documents presented in preparation for constructing an enduring issues argument.

**Step 1. Draw a three column chart** either under the document or on the back of it. Label the left-side of chart, “MI,” for Main Idea, and the center of the chart, “E.I,” meaning possible enduring issue, and the right-side of the chart, “OI” for outside information.

**Step 2. Read and annotate your document.**

**Step 3. Write a 1-2 sentence summary** that expresses the **MAIN IDEA** of the document a on the **LEFT HAND SIDE** of the T-chart.

**Step 4. Write POSSIBLE ENDURING ISSUES** present in the document in the **CENTER** of the chart. Write out any **PROBLEMS** or **CHALLENGES** faced by the people and societies mentioned in the document.

**Step 5. Write OUTSIDE INFORMATION** about the context or effects of the events/ideas present in the document on the **RIGHT HAND SIDE** of the chart.

## Example Document

**Example Document**

**Main Idea**  
The Crusades were bad, but there was cultural diffusion. People shared ideas and traded more.

**E. I. ?**  
- ideas + beliefs  
- interconnectedness  
- innovation

**O. I.**  
- people shared ideas + traded more

M.I.	E.I.	O.I.
The Crusades were bad, but there was <u>cultural diffusion</u> . People shared ideas and traded more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ideas + beliefs</li> <li>- interconnectedness</li> <li>- innovation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Crusades- Christians vs Muslims</li> <li>- 1095</li> <li>- trade led to Renaissance</li> </ul>

## Four Tips for Identifying an Enduring Issue

**1**

### **Base your issue on evidence.**

You will need to support your choice of enduring issue with evidence from documents or topics you have learned in class, so instead of choosing an issue that you like to write about and trying to find evidence for it, look for evidence of challenges or problems, then identify an issue based on what you find.

**3**

### **Be as specific as possible.**

Instead of choosing “conflict,” try identifying an enduring issue like “conflict between ethnic groups” or “civil wars.”

**2**

### **Do not stick to the list.**

If you see evidence of an enduring issue in a set of documents or topics you have learned in class that is not on the list, then choose that one. Do not limit yourself to the list. For example, “hatred,” and “pollution” are not on the list, but are enduring issues.

**4**

### **Identify causes and/or effects**

Instead of choosing an issue like “conflict,” identify what causes conflict like “conflict caused by competition over resources” or try identifying the effects of an enduring issue. For example, you could write, “conflict has led to human rights violations.”

## NYS Enduring Issues Essay Rubric Separated By Category

[curriculum.newvisions.org/social-studies](http://curriculum.newvisions.org/social-studies)

	5	4	3	2	1
<p><b>Identify and Define Enduring Issue</b></p>	Clearly identifies and accurately defines one enduring issue raised in at least <b>three</b> documents	Identifies and accurately defines one enduring issue raised in at least <b>three</b> documents	Identifies and defines one enduring issue raised in at least 3 documents. May include minor inaccuracies	Identifies, but does not clearly define, one enduring issue raised in the set of documents; may include errors	Identifies, but does not define, one enduring issue raised by the documents
<p><b>Argument: Significance of Enduring Issue and Continuity or Change Over Time</b></p>	Develops an even, thoughtful and in depth argument about how an enduring issue has affected people or has been affected by them <b>and</b> how the issue continues to be an issue or has changed over time	Develops a thoughtful argument in some depth about how an enduring issue has affected people or has been affected by them <b>and</b> how the issue continues to be an issue or has changed over time <b>OR</b> develops the argument somewhat unevenly by discussing one aspect of the argument more thoroughly than the other	Develops both aspects of the argument in little depth <b>or</b> develops only one aspect of the argument in some depth	Minimally develops both aspects of the argument or develops one aspect of the argument in little depth	Minimally develops one aspect of the argument
<p><b>Analysis</b></p>	Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates and/or creates information)	Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates and/or creates information)	Is more descriptive than analytical (applies, may analyze and/or evaluate information)	Is primarily descriptive; may include faulty, weak, or isolated application or analysis.	Is descriptive; may lack understanding, application, or analysis
<p><b>Evidence: Documents</b></p>	Richly supports the task by incorporating substantial relevant evidence that includes facts, examples, and details from at least <b>three</b> of the documents	Supports the task by incorporating relevant evidence that includes facts, examples, and details from at least <b>three</b> documents	Incorporates some relevant evidence that includes facts, examples, and details from the docs; may include minor inaccuracies	Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details from the documents or consists primarily of relevant information copied from the documents; may include inaccuracies.	Makes some vague, unclear references to the documents and includes minimal relevant facts, examples, and details copied from the documents; may include some inaccuracies.
<p><b>Evidence: Outside Information</b></p>	Richly supports the task by incorporating substantial relevant outside information that includes facts, examples, and details	Supports the task by incorporating relevant outside information that includes facts, examples and details	Incorporates limited relevant outside information that includes facts, examples, and details; may include minor inaccuracies	Presents little or no relevant outside information; may include some inaccuracies	Presents no relevant outside information
<p><b>Organization</b></p>	Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion	Demonstrates a logical and clear path of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion	Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion	Demonstrates a general lack of focus; may contain digressions; may lack an introduction and a conclusion	May demonstrate a weakness in organization; may lack focus; may contain digressions; may lack an introduction and a conclusion.

### **PART 3—Enduring Issue Document Based Essay [15 Points]**

An enduring issue is a challenge or problem that has been debated or discussed across time. An enduring issue is one that many societies have attempted to address with varying degrees of success.

#### **In your essay**

- Identify and define an enduring issue raised by this set of documents.
- Using your knowledge of social studies and evidence from the documents, argue why the issue you selected is significant and how it has endured across time.

#### **Be Sure to**

- Identify the issue based on a historically accurate interpretation of **three** documents.
- Define the issue using evidence from *at least three* documents
- Argue that this is a significant issue that has endured by showing:
  - How the issue has affected people or been affected by people
  - How the issue has continued to be an issue or changed over time
- Include outside information from your knowledge of social studies and include evidence from the documents.

#### **Checklist**

To get the full 15-point credit, student includes all of the following:

1. an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion
2. Identifies an enduring issue
3. Explains the enduring issue
4. Includes at least 3 documents and each shows
  - a. Evidence of the enduring issue in each document
  - b. Shows significance or impacts of the issue (how it affected people or been affected by people)
  - c. Explain How the issue has continued to be an issue or changed over time
  - d. Includes outside information related to the issue



Here is an example of a paragraph --- this will not work for all essays and it would need to be modified based on the claim that is being taken (has it improved? Has it changed? Has it continued? Has it gotten worse?)

An enduring issue in history is \_\_\_\_\_ (what it is), (define it) \_\_\_\_\_ . It first appears to impact society in \_\_\_\_\_ (time period) and continues to have a \_\_\_\_\_ (positive/negative/small/large,) impact of the world today. \_\_\_\_\_ (enduring issue) has endured as seen through \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and although it has improved it still \_\_\_\_\_ (a problem, not solved, impacting history, impacting people, etc.).

## VI. Body Paragraph:

### A. TOPIC SENTENCE

Identify the main idea of your body paragraph and connect it to the claim in your thesis.

### B. DESCRIBE EVIDENCE - DETAIL / Facts needed (What?)

Describe evidence of an event, person, source, etc.

who was involved    where it happened    when it happened    what happened    how it happened

Use evidence from documents and outside information explain the SIGNIFICANCE of the event. Introduce evidence from documents using source information and cite the document parenthetically (doc 4)

### C. ANALYSIS EVIDENCE: EXPLAIN the EFFECTS of the event (Why and How?)

A good word to use is "because", also in your writing keep answering the question so what? These are some questions to answer in your writing that will help you with analysis.

5. Explain why it was/is important
6. Explain how and why people were impacted by it with specific historical proof (NO OPINIONS!)
7. How did this event / example change history? (turning point)
8. Explain how and why the effects were long lasting.

## VII. Conclusion

### A. RESTATE the stance/claim

### B. DESCRIBE how the issue has continued to be an issue and changed over time

### C. EXPLAIN why the issue is ENDURING and SIGNIFICANT

\_\_\_\_\_ is a significant enduring issue in America because \_\_\_\_\_ it has led to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The struggle to solve this issue has been \_\_\_\_\_ as shown through \_\_\_\_\_ but this will continue to have an impact on American in a \_\_\_\_\_ way because \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

This concluding paragraph outline may or may not work based on what you have written but it gives you an idea how to set up a conclusion with evidence that is strong

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