**5 Things To Remember As You Write Your Body Paragraphs**

1. **TEA format, (or TAE if you wish….)**

Your body paragraph needs to have three parts:

**Topic sentence:** the first sentence of a paragraph that makes a claim about an important factor

**Specific Evidence:** Information that connects to your claim and gives of examples of the factor being important

**Analysis\*:** Sentence or two that explains the “so what”: **why** was that factor important? How would the development of the colonies have been different without that factor? etc.

*\*In writing analysis, try not to use the exact phrase “This was important because…”*

For example, if you were writing a paragraph about luck as a factor….

T: Many colonies benefitted from good luck, but bad luck really limited others.

E: For instance…(examples from many colonies)

A: Some colonies benefitted from a lucky location rich in natural resources, friendly neighbors, or open space, while others had to fight much harder to survive. Without such luck, colonies….

2. **Specific evidence means specific!**

Colonies happened in specific times and places. To the best of your ability, you should try to include dates, specific people, and places as part of your evidence. Obviously, if your sources don’t have that specific info, you can’t include it, but make sure you look back at your sources to be sure. Sometimes one to two more sentences of detailed evidence make a **huge** difference in quality.

3. **History writing rules---** All evidence needs to be in past tense, and no use of first person (I, we, you). If you get stuck with how to write something, try substituting the word “one” with what you want to use.

**4. Claims and evidence: match, don’t repeat!**

One of the problems with many Columbus report cards was that people gave me more information than they needed to. **Your job is NOT to tell me everything you know about a topic.** It is to use evidence that matches your claim and proves it. Make sure you need the information you are putting in. In addition, the best essays have two factors that are different from each other and use different evidence.

**5. Watch out for AWKWARD writing.**

Remember, no using “was when” or “was because”. In general, it is useful to keep your sentences fairly short and direct with a subject- verb format. Often times you can replace whole phrases such as “ One example of Jamestown’s leadership was….” with “ First, Jamestown’s leaders….”

Reread your work aloud, or have someone else read it for you. If you see a sentence that is overly long, try to rephrase it with the same idea, but in fewer words. It is probably better if it is shorter.

**BONUS: Don’t make the same mistakes twice!!**

What to predict which rule you might struggle with the most? LOOK back at my comments on your Columbus writing. It is why I have you do it in Googledocs, so it is not lost.