

# Handout A: Writing Practice: Thesis Construction

## Prompt: How did the collision of cultures create a “New World”?

### Directions:

To build a successful thesis statement, you must not only answer the question but also provide the reasoning to support your argument. This is a broad question, so there can be many directions where a brief essay can go; however, a thesis statement that is concise and precise helps focus this essay and drives the evidence that you include. For example, you may consider any of the following questions:

- How were the Native American populations affected by contact with Europeans?
- What new people, ideas, diseases, plants, or animals were introduced to the Americas by Europeans?
- What new people, ideas, diseases, plants, or animals were introduced to Europeans by Native Americans?
- How was Africa changed permanently by the connection between Europe and the Americas?
- How did the collision of cultures shape Europe and the Americas politically?
- How did the collision of cultures shape Europe and the Americas economically?
- How did the collision of cultures shape Europe and the Americas socially?
- How did the collision of cultures shape Europe and the Americas culturally?

Draft a thesis statement for the prompt for this chapter below:

### Draft Thesis Statement (1):

## Peer Feedback

### Directions:

Have a partner review your thesis statement by considering the five questions below. Have them circle on this paper whether your thesis meets the expectations of the AP Rubric.

1. Does the thesis answer the question without restating the prompt?	YES	NO
2. Does the thesis make sense?	YES	NO
3. Is the thesis historically accurate?	YES	NO
4. Does the thesis provide clear and cohesive reasoning?	YES	NO
If not, ask a question here: _____		
5. Will the thesis be able to be supported by evidence?	YES	NO

## Thesis Revision

### Directions:

Taking the feedback from your peers above, revise the draft of your thesis statement:

#### Draft Thesis Statement (2):

## Reflection

- How does your draft thesis statement compare with your original draft?
- What does this demonstrate to you about your thesis construction skills?

Read the Scoring Criteria and Decisions Rules of a successful thesis statement from the College Board AP U.S. History Rubric:

Scoring Criteria	Decision Rules
Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning.	To earn this point, the thesis must make a claim that responds to the prompt rather than restating or rephrasing the prompt. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion.

Would your thesis receive a thesis point according to these criteria? YES NO UNSURE

Explain your answer to the question above.