

Chinese History Essay Outline and Rubric

Students will write an **outline to a 5 paragraph essay** exploring an aspect of Chinese history. The purpose is for students to think critically about Chinese history as well as develop their essay writing skills. The outline will have an introduction (**with a fully developed thesis statement**), three supporting paragraph sections, and a conclusion sentence. Outside resources can be used as long as they are listed at the end with a one sentence explanation of how they were used. Essay outlines will be **due Friday, October 7th**.

Topic options:

1. Achievements and why Chinese were able to accomplish them
2. Strengths and weaknesses of centralized leadership throughout Chinese history
3. Themes and lessons from Chinese history that have relevance to the world today

Example:

- I. Introduction
 - A. Background info
 - B. Background info
 - C. Why important
 - D. **Thesis:** Chinese history....
- II. Idea #1
 - A. Topic sentence
 - B. Supporting info
 - C. Supporting info
 - D. Supporting info
- III. Idea #2
 - A. Topic sentence
 - B. Supporting info
 - C. Supporting info
 - D. Supporting info
- IV. Idea #3
 - A. Topic sentence
 - B. Supporting info
 - C. Supporting info
 - D. Supporting info
- V. Conclusion
 - A. Topic sentence
 - B. Re-explain #1
 - C. Re-explain #2
 - D. Re-explain #3
 - E. Apply information to the reader: why this matters

China Essay Rubric

Create an essay based on your outline. The essay will be a 5 paragraphs long, double spaced, and 2-3 pages in length. Essay is due October 12.

Category	Above Expectations	Met Expectations	Below Expectations	Did not meet Expectations	Comments
Thesis	4 The thesis statement names the topic of the essay and outlines the main points to be discussed.	3 The thesis statement names the topic of the essay.	2 The thesis statement outlines some of the main points to be discussed.	1 Unclear what sentence is the thesis or thesis does not outline the points to be discussed	
Structure	8 Essay is five paragraphs with body paragraphs directly supporting the thesis with excellent topic sentences.	6 Essay is five paragraphs with body paragraphs supporting the thesis.	4 Essay is five paragraphs with body paragraphs that somewhat support the thesis.	2 Essay is not five paragraphs and/or body paragraphs do not support thesis	
Supporting Information	10 All of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the thesis.	8 Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the thesis.	6 At least one of the pieces of evidence and examples is relevant and has an explanation that shows how that piece of evidence supports the thesis.	4 Evidence and examples are NOT relevant and/or are not explained.	
Conclusion	4 The conclusion restates the thesis, paraphrases the important support information, and makes the information relevant to the reader.	3 The conclusion restates the thesis, paraphrases the important support information.	2 The conclusion somewhat restates the thesis, restates some of the supporting information in the essay.	1 There is no conclusion - the paper just ends.	
Conventions	4 Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling but do not distract the reader from the content.	3 Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that may distract the reader from the content.	2 Author makes 5-7 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	1 Author makes 8 or more errors in grammar or spelling that blatantly distract the reader from the content.	
Total	___/30	Comments:			