

PSCI 116

Political Change in the Third World

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Sample Paper Skeleton

A. First Paragraph

- a. Avoid openings that are sweeping and superficial claims about the world. Be specific.
- b. Include relevant context about your two countries, maybe some sample stats.
- c. Consider why these two cases are compelling together and state it.
- d. Your thesis
 - i. A thesis is an argument you are making in regards to your two cases. A good thesis is a clear thesis. Many people start their theses with, "In this paper I will argue _____ (about these two countries) because of 1, 2, 3, n.... A good paper is one that comes back to the 1, 2, 3 throughout the paper in an orderly fashion.
- e. A preview of what is to come in the essay. Many people start with, "This paper is organized as follows. First, I discuss (insert thesis) by showing (1). Then, (2). Finally, (3). I conclude by (returning to my initial thesis statement) and discuss some broader implications of my analysis..."

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B. 1, 2, 3 are your evidence paragraphs. They make your thesis an argumentative one.

Your evidence paragraphs should include specific observations related to your two cases, as well as relevant readings from class to couch your arguments in. This second paragraph should be about idea 1. Develop idea 1 here.

C. This third paragraph should be about idea 2. Develop idea 2 here.

D. This fourth paragraph should be about idea 3. Develop idea 3 here.

E. Conclusion

a. Restate your thesis and say you showed 1, 2, 3 were illustrative of your essay.

b. Open up an organized discussion about the implications of your analysis.

Points to Remember

- Your argument should be original i.e. it should be unique to you.
- Any citation format is okay, but be consistent
- Do not just summarize events. I already know what happened. I want you to convince me of your argument!
- Don't use quotes from readings that do not actually advance your argument, i.e. do not drop quotes for the sake of lengthening your essay
- Important: back up your work to the cloud
- Before submitting your essay, read it aloud, share it with a friend, and/or visit the Writing Center for help in assessing coherence
- Submit by email before class on **Monday November 25**

Exercise

Take a few minutes and write down the two countries you are thinking of comparing and some of the key similarities/differences between them. Then turn to the person next to you and exchange your ideas