

Introduction planning page

EQ: Should we keep our current system for electing the President?

Introduction Directions (from the assignment sheet) “In your introduction, you should have a clearly worded *thesis* statement in which you take a position on the EQ. Use what you have done in your English class to form a thesis statement with a *marker* `verb. You should also briefly discuss the reasons why the electoral college system exists.”

Why does the electoral college exist? Write out some basic ideas you plan to use or discuss in your introductory paragraph.

What is your thesis statement? (Use what you learned in Ms. Heather’s class).

At first, pick a general side of the argument: for or against the electoral college. Then plan and think through your body paragraphs. Once you have a solid idea what your main ideas are in your essay, come back here and have a more carefully worded thesis statement that explains what you plan to argue in your essay. Use the marker verbs to help you find appropriate language to write your thesis.

Body paragraph planning page

Step 1: Identify a topic: What is the topic you are focusing on in this paragraph? (We can get more specific later on, just identify a general topic here. Ex. The electoral college is undemocratic).

Step 2: Evidence: What related, specific evidence, and ideas can you find to help you discuss the point from Step 1 and prove your thesis? You don't have to use all the information you list here in your paragraph. Make sure you write down your source so you can find the information again.

***Step 2a: Contrary evidence:** Relevant ideas or evidence that challenge your claim in this paragraph.

Step 3: Connecting and Reasoning: Write a brief explanation of how your evidence from Step 2 proves your claim and proves your thesis. In other words, why is this proof that we should or should not change the electoral system. *How would you argue against any contrary evidence you identified?

Step 4: Topic Sentence: Use steps 1 through 3 to write a clearly worded topic sentence that states the claim you're trying to make in this paragraph.

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