

Key Words for Historical Writing

Key Words: Prompts

Analyze: specifically, to separate into component parts and determine their interrelationships but it may mean looking at all sides of an event or issue, determining causes, key factors, and consequences; comparing and contrasting; explain

Assess the validity: to make judgement or evaluation as to the veracity or accuracy of a statement; to agree or disagree

Compare: to draw out or stress points of similarity, but to include points of difference

Contrast: to draw out or stress points of difference

Discuss: consider an issue from various points of view; a form of analysis

Evaluate: (similar to assess) but may include pros and cons, positive and negative points

Explain: to clarify an issue or event

Interpret: to give an educated opinion or meaning; translate

In what ways: usually refers to more than one causes or effects: social, economic, technological, political, etc.

To what extent: how much, to what degree is a statement true or accurate

Key Words: Linkage or Transition

1. Emphasizing or strengthening

in addition

again

also

another

as if

as much as

as though

besides

correspondingly

equally

equally important

for example

for instance

furthermore

in a like manner

in addition to

in fact

in general

in the same fashion

likewise

moreover

moreover

of course

similarly

too

2. Contrasting or explaining an exception

although	however	on the contrary
and yet	in comparison	on the other hand
besides	in comparison to	otherwise
by comparison	in place of	still
by contrast	in spite of	unfortunately
conversely	instead	unless
differing from	less important	whereas
even if	nevertheless	yet
even though	notwithstanding	

3. Sequencing or order of importance

above all	gradually	presently
afterward	hereafter	since
as soon as	immediately	subsequently
earlier	in the end	thereafter
equally important	in the first place	thereupon
eventually	in the meantime	until
first	meanwhile	when
formerly	next	
further	of greater importance	
furthermore	of lesser importance	

4. Indicating cause, result, consequence, or purpose

accordingly	for this reason	since
as	for this reason	so
as a result	hence	then
because	in any case	therefore
consequently	in fact	thus
finally	provided that	gradually

5. Illustrating

as an example
for example
for instance
specifically

Key Words: Synonyms

Said

added
continued
stated
Announced
asserted
commented
declared
observed
remarked
reported

Acknowledging or revealing

acknowledged
admitted
affirmed
alleged
avowed
conceded
confessed
disclosed
divulged
revealed

Explanatory

answered
explained
rejoined
replied
responded
retorted
returned

Argumentative

contended
countered
emphasized
exclaimed
maintained
proclaimed
proposed

Suggestive

hinted
implied
insinuated
intimated
suggested

Power Words

asserts
criticizes
compliments
demonstrates
embraces
exemplifies
illustrates
indicates
portrays
reflects
reveals
signifies
strengthens
symbolizes
undermines