

AP World History Summer Writing Assignment

Autobiographical Long-Essay-Question (LEQ): Changes and Continuities of

Your Education, 2020-2026

Directions: You are to answer the following question for part of your AP World History summer assignment. There are no length requirements, but it should meet all of the requirements outlined on this paper to receive full points. Be aware that you do not need to share anything with me that you do not feel comfortable sharing! You are welcome to write only about academic changes/continuities if you feel more comfortable doing so.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a defensible thesis or claim
- Describe the broader context relevant to the prompt
- Support an argument in response to the prompt using specific relevant examples of evidence
- Use evidence to corroborate an argument to the Prompt

IMPORTANT: It is OK (and somewhat expected) that you are unsure or unclear about the expectations of this essay. JUST DO YOUR BEST. I will be teaching you more about the rubrics throughout the school year, as well as sharing examples with you. There will be plenty of time to practice and grow. Don't stress about not getting it right on this essay--this task is meant to expose you to the basic outline of the essay and give you some practice. Again, JUST DO YOUR BEST. That's my primary expectation for this assignment. Any questions or uncertainties you have will be addressed in class, so please try to avoid asking me questions about the rubric over the summer.

Essay Prompt:

Middle school and high school are often seen as periods of growth and development for young people in the United States. The transition from elementary to middle school and subsequently middle school to high school often present unique personal and academic challenges and opportunities. **Develop an argument that evaluates the degree to which you experienced personal and/or academic changes during the 2020 -2026 time period.**

STEP 1: DETERMINE CHANGES and CONTINUITIES

Brainstorm THREE (or more) personal and/or academic changes that occurred in your life from 2020-2025.

Brainstorm ONE or MORE academic and/or personal continuity that has spanned your life from 2020-2025.

STEP 2: Provide CONTEXT for your essay.

Context is one point on the long-essay-question (LEQ) rubric. It also appears on your document-based-question (DBQ) rubric. From your knowledge of this time period in history, what do you know that could help you analyze (or put into context) how your personal/academic life has changed? You must situate the argument by explaining the broader historical events, developments or processes immediately relevant to the question.

Think of context as “setting the scene” for your essay. I often explain it in class as the opening “crawl” (yellow text) at the beginning of a Star Wars movie, or the “previously on...” you see at the beginning of shows to summarize what happened on a previous episode or season of your favorite TV show. Contextualization is NOT awarded for merely a word or phrase, but instead requires an explanation typically consisting of multiple sentences. Context appears in the introduction to your essay. There are no length requirements, but good contextual statements are usually around 4-5 sentences long. So, set the scene for your life. Give some background information about yourself before diving into the prompt topic and your thesis. Write a rough outline of your context here.

STEP 3: Outline Your Changes & Continuities

STEP 4: WRITE YOUR THESIS – The thesis of an essay is your main point or argument. It is essentially a 1-3 sentence “roadmap” or summary of what you will discuss in your essay. It will come after the context statement in your introductory paragraph. Start off by using the same words from the prompt. I often refer to this as using “the language of the prompt” -- get used to it because I will be saying it all year! Answer the question and add some specific details as a summary of what you will be writing about in your essay. DO NOT simply write “There were many changes and continuities in my personal and academic life.” That is too vague and will not earn you the thesis point. Give specific examples of changes/continuities in your life. For example, “In my personal and academic life, I experienced changes such as however I also experienced continuities, for example”

STEP 5: WRITE THE ESSAY!

This is essentially a four paragraph essay, but of course you can write more paragraphs if it is fitting or if one of your paragraphs can logically be split. Remember, it can be typed or handwritten—as long as your handwriting is legible. There is no length requirement.