

Ways of the World: A Global History with Sources for the AP® Course
AP® Skills Workshop Activity Handout: Comparative Arguments
Chapter 18: Colonial Encounters in Asia, Africa, and Oceania

Name _____
Date _____ Class _____

1. Activity: Identifying a Strong Comparative Thesis. Look at the thesis statements below. Based on your understanding of comparative arguments and the evidence found on pages 787–789, circle the one that best sets up a direct comparative argument. Look back at the thesis explanation in your textbook to help you choose.

Prompt: *Evaluate the extent to which the path to colonialism was similar for India and Nigeria.*

- A. The path to colonialism in India and Nigeria was substantially similar because they both became part of the British Empire.
- B. Although Nigeria and India ultimately became part of the British Empire, their two paths were substantially different because India was conquered over a long period of time via the British East India Company while Nigeria was conquered quickly with much brutality on the part of the British.
- C. Since India had a central government—the Mughals—and Nigeria did not because it was a village-based society, there were substantial differences in the path to colonialism in India and Nigeria.

What aspect of the thesis statement you chose makes it the best?

2. Activity: Building a Comparative Argument Paragraph. Based on the thesis statement below, create one body paragraph of the essay. You will need to decide whether you want to create a paragraph of similarities and a paragraph of differences, or whether you want to create a paragraph centered on a topic that encompasses both similarities and differences. Use the section "Industry and Empire" on pages 782–786 for your evidence.

Thesis: *Although in many ways European colonial empires were similar to other versions of colonialism throughout history, the European version was distinctive in its use of race and religion to separate colonial subjects.*

Contextualizing intro:

Topic sentence:

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Evidence A:

Evidence B:

Evidence C:

Paragraph:

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3. Activity: Creating a Comparative Argument. Based on the prompt below, use the “Ways of Working: Comparing Colonial Economies” section (pages 795–805) of this chapter to create a contextualizing intro, a thesis, and two topic sentences for paragraphs. Then, select at least three pieces of evidence to support each topic sentence.

Evaluate the extent to which the colonial economies were affected by European states’ ability to control labor.

Note that you could attack this essay with any of the three historical reasoning skills. Since we are practicing comparison, please focus on creating a comparative argument. Use examples of context statements and thesis statements in this and the earlier workshops to help guide you.
